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# HARDING

## A BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC TOWNSHIP

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Sketches by.....W. ANITA S. SCHROEDER, B.F.A.

SWISS

The Book grew out of a community need for some written information about its history. There had been none since Rev. Murgatroyd had done so nobly for New Vernon and environs in the book published on the occasion of the church's 60th anniversary, 1893, and a short pamphlet by the Rev. James Boal for the church's centennial, 1933. Dr. Hayward at first ventured his historical sermon, drew a flood of requests to embellish and enlarge upon same. This is the result of his long hours of conversation with townfolk who dug deep into their memory files to produce all that is written within.

W.A.S.



*Tales of a town, as fictitious and erroneous as our collective memories may make it—as truthful and accurate as the facts may show it—as dull and uninteresting as records may prove it—as warm and inviting as the houses may look it—as alive and thrilling as the people in it! Dedicated to these lovely houses, whose exteriors made me yearn to see their interiors.*

W.A.S.

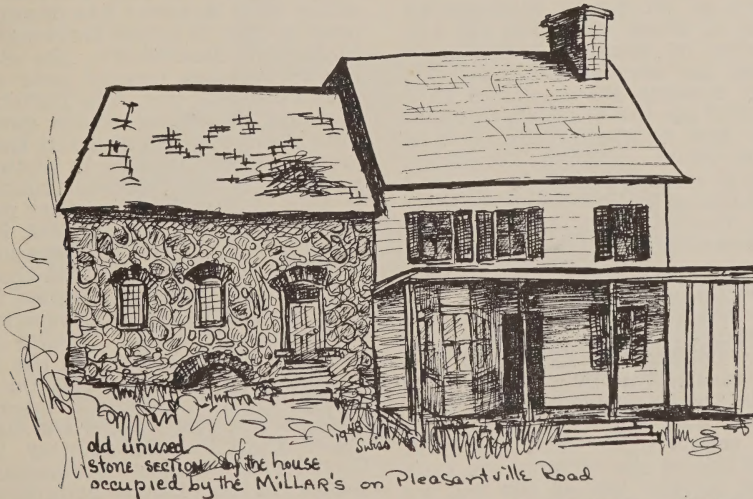


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## THE FIRST INHABITANTS

of West Jersey perhaps more specifically a part of that region which lies between the Pompton area to the north and the sources of the Passaic river to the south were Delaware Indians of the New Stone Age. They styled themselves the "Original People" or Lenni-Lenape or just Lenape and their country the "Scheyechbi." The Lenape came originally from the Algonquian stock. During the colonial era in North America and perhaps for a period long before, the Lenape like other Algonquian tribes were inveterate enemies of the Iroquois. It was with the Delaware tribe that William Penn made his famous treaty of 1682 kept faithfully by the tribe for over fifty years. By the year 1720 or during the beginning of the intensive efforts to settle West Jersey the Delaware were defeated by the Iroquois who were their superiors it seems both intellectually and physically. With defeat at the hands of their enemies and the arts of war denied them the Delaware pursued the peaceful occupations of fishing and hunting with supreme skill. Largely docile in character the West Jersey tribes seem to have rarely given the white settlers much difficulty. They made their yearly excursions from the banks of the Delaware along the Minisink Trail to the coast following the Hopatcong waters, the Rockaway river, the glacial moraine, Parsippany, the areas now Morristown, over the Watchung Gap at Summit, to Metuchen, the Raritan and the Navesink. Mounds of empty shells tell the story of the Indian dependence for food upon the sea, as well as forest. Children of the early settlers played with Indian children and some degree of social intercourse existed between the two peoples.



## IN THE HARDING TOWNSHIP

area, for example, artifacts and finds from former Indian encampments have been uncovered in some abundance; arrowheads, stone hatchet heads, and other hunting and fishing impedimenta. Back of the old Daniel Tunis farm on the hills in the neighborhood of Pleasantville and Millbrook roads flints and other handwrought weapons have been unearthed or turned over by the plow. Along

Pleasant Plains road down near the Passaic river Mills Bockoven has collected a large number of interesting implements.

## ABOUT 1695 IF NOT EARLIER

some of the Dutch out of New Amsterdam, then in British hands, began to people the Paramus Valley. A large tract of land is said to have been purchased by them from the Delaware whose boundaries extended over the area of Harding Township. It would be difficult to define the exact limitations for the country here was then a wilderness. Furthermore, the Indians often sold and re-sold the same large tracts of land especially before the turn of the eighteenth century when the whites were unable to actually possess and colonize the area. Despite these so-called sales of land the Indians continued to live in the area trading with the whites in Elizabeth and latterly Newark and hunting and fishing in the neighborhood. Only a chance white hunting or fishing party ventured into these regions then.

## IN SEPTEMBER OF 1685

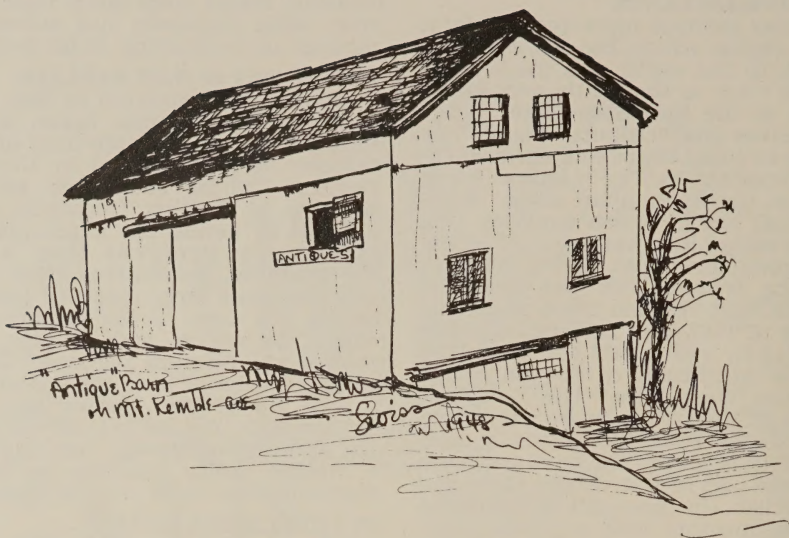
it is recorded that the good ship "Henry and Francis" of three hundred-odd tons left the Scottish port of Leith bringing two hundred Scots to Perth Amboy to constitute the first large Scots infiltration into Jersey. In 1686 we have the first record of the settlements at New Brunswick.

## THE FIRST REAL PENETRATION

of white settlers into these regions which lie beyond the Watchung Gap dates from the turn of the eighteenth century particularly in its second and third decades. Intense interest was stirred by the discovery of iron-bearing ore. Hanover is one of the earliest of these settlements with its foundation

about 1710. Some years later, West Hanover, or what is now Morristown, began. But the early growth was slow. New Englanders and larger groups of Scotch and Scotch-Irish were the pioneering groups. In 1739 a new county was laid out within the bounds of Hunterdon county. The first county court session was held in the tavern of Jacob Ford formerly in the center of what is now Morristown. The first church, the Presbyterian, was organized





about 1740. The courthouse was erected in 1755. The earliest cemetery recordings date from 1728 which may also bear some relation to the dating of the church organization even before the church construction. Interestingly enough, there are a considerable number of soldiers, perhaps one hundred or more, whose remains lie in the old cemetery. But this is revolutionary not pre-revolutionary history.

#### THE VICISSITUDES OF

history are often traceable most easily through its religious foundations. The first church in what is now Morris County following the tradition of the Scotch is the Presbyterian church at Whippany then known as Whippanong of about 1718-1720. In the neighboring town of Basking Ridge Scots families entered the area as early as 1720. The church at Basking Ridge claims to a foundation of 1717 for the original log cabin which was the first religious foundation in the area. This would antedate the Whippanong church at least a year. The records show that John Richards, local school-master in Parsippany, deeded three and one-half acres to the township of Whippanong for a "meeting-house."

#### THE DATE OF THE BASKING

Ridge log cabin church, 1717, coincides with certain records that indicate the purchase from the Delaware, a local chieftain of the same, a tract of land by a man named Harrison. This tract included the hill on which the town now stands. The name, Basking Ridge, seems to date back to at least 1733. The wild life of the vicinity are said to have basked on the top of the hill in sunny weather hence the town name. The oldest stone in the churchyard near the four hundred year old oak dates from 9 June 1736 one Henry Haines yet doubtless there are earlier graves.

#### THIS AREA WAS STILL

pretty wild up until a few years before the Revolution. Farmers who hauled their produce into the larger marts of New Brunswick, Elizabeth and Newark carried arms for pro-

tection from marauding beasts particularly the wolves in winter. In 1750 the bounty offered for a wolf-pelt was raised to sixty shillings no mean sum for a farmer in those days. A panther tracked one party en-route from Pleasantville to New Vernon and a bear was shot over on the Blue Mill road within the past hundred years.

#### OF OLD DEEDS THAT HAVE

bearing upon the site of New Vernon one document refers to a survey on behalf of John Alford and James Bullen. Another, specifically nearer Morristown, on behalf of one John Kay. New Vernon was then considered an area part of Morristown. The name West Hanover was changed to Morristown in 1740 to please Governor Lewis Morris of Jersey. Morristown, like other points in the region, was located near the new finds or iron-bearing ore. The Indian names "Succasunna," meaning "black stone," indicates something of the nature of the region. Indeed, Succasunna's early history is the history of the early pre-revolutionary interest in iron. John Ford, another member of the famous Ford family, in 1708, it is said, had himself a forge at "Whippanong." By the Revolution it has been said that as many as one hundred mines, furnaces, forges, rolling mills and slitting plants were in existence in Morris county alone. To the south of us a group of Dutch settled on the Raritan or in its drainage area working out and beyond New Brunswick. One of the earliest of the settlements, that along the upper Raritan, called from the old country, the Reverend Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen, to be pastor of the Dutch congregations in the area.

#### IN APRIL 17, 1715

a deed on sheepskin conveyed certain lands from John Alford (Alfred) to John Lindley (Lindsley) and Stephen Tuttle. Part of the conveyance to show the completeness of transfer bears the wording "mines, minerals, woods, underwoods, timber trees, pasture feeding, ways, waters, water courses, springs, swamps, marsh land, meadow ground, fowl-



ings, huntings, hawkins and all other royalties franchises powers, emoluments, commodities, hereditaments and appurtenances" (punctuation mine). First on the list one notices mines and minerals a fact which indicates the relative importance attached to these things though there is no indication that our immediate area ever served more than in the capacity of a good farm and forest land.

#### DURING THE SAME PERIOD,

1715 and 1716, a provincial survey was ordered by the Governor of the province and documents on this particular region designate the area as "Pessaik" a spelling later changed to "Passaic," after the river which drains much of the present township. Incidentally, what is now the city of Passaic was then called Acquackanonk, the old Indian name for the site.

#### IN A DEED OF OCTOBER 3, 1727

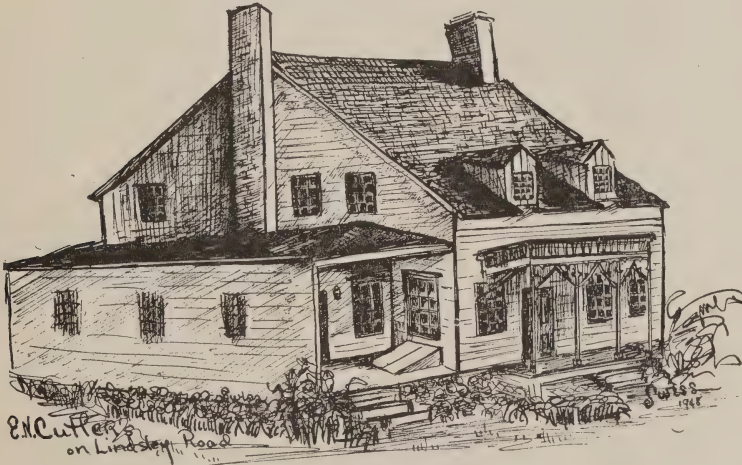
there is a reading bearing upon the April 17, 1715 matter. "... this indenture in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second over Great Britain—between John Alfred of Massachusetts and John Lindsley of the Western Division of the Province of New Jersey—yoeman—all that land in America known as the Western Division of the Province of New Jersey, 500 acres, leys between the Whippaning and Pessaik rivers." History also records that the Lindsley and Tuttle families, first in Harding Township, were also first amongst the pioneering families in the later settlement of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

#### THE CONGER FAMILY

owned and operated a tavern dating from about 1743. It once stood on the corner of Blue Mill and Sand Spring road near the present house occupied by Lucy Wedge. The old building disappeared shortly after 1890. Abraham Canfield ran a country store, blacksmith shop and cider mill as early as 1740. The remains of one of the Canfield house foundations stands opposite the Manse on Lee's Hill road. Canfield procured the iron for his smithing from the Succassuna region. He marketed his ironmongery in Newark. Smiths and Farmers in these parts loaded their produce on pack-animals. It was an overnight run to Newark. A few decades later produce was hauled by farmer's wagons. Indeed, up until the advent of the automobile amongst farmers in the nineteen-twenties nightly loads were shipped to market over the rough country road linking this region with Newark beyond the Watchung Gap. It took twelve hours or more to make the return journey and the trip was done by night, that is, from dusk to dawn. Thus potatoes, apples, grain and other produce found their way to ready buyers in the growing Newark metropolitan area.

#### THE OLD AMOS OLIVER

house now occupied by the Cutlers of Lindsley road, was built, it is claimed, in 1768. The Peter Kemble house on Mt. Kemble (Kimball) avenue still standing though much reconditioned was built in the neighborhood of 1750. Peter Kemble was an interesting "tory" of the region. General "Mad" Anthony Wayne occupied the premises during 1780-1781.



#### OTHER FAMILY NAMES

which come down through history in this immediate neighborhood are Goble, Tomkins, Fairchild, Conger, Muir, Oliver, Canfield, Miller, Pruddens. (Other names perhaps of later date will be mentioned later.) Interesting stories and legends have accumulated around many of the early inhabitants. Stories which at once place the subjects in the category of "characters."

#### THERE ARE MANY STONES

of the Prudden family in the New Vernon churchyard. This family was concerned in the founding of two churches: the Morristown Presbyterian Church dating from 1738 to 1740 and the New Vernon Church dating from 1832. Church folk of Presbyterian persuasion walked or rode long distances on Sunday to attend the services in Morristown or Basking Ridge. In those days the entire



family went to church, brought their noon-day meal with them and remained the day. It was the social as well as the religious event of the week. The log cabin church in Basking Ridge had been replaced by another larger colonial type of structure erected about 1749. Worship was conducted in that edifice until the erection of the present church there in 1839. The church at Basking Ridge claims to two hundred and twenty-seven years.

#### THE OLIVER FAMILY

mentioned above claim as its pioneering forebear here one Samuel Oliver who colonized in 1754. Descendants of the family still live in our township.

#### NEAR THE SITE OF

the old brick schoolhouse on Mt. Kemble avenue where Sand Spring road debouches stood an ancient modest building which once housed the first Baptist Church in this immediate area. It dates from 1752. Ministers of that persuasion did much country itinerant preaching covering the trails and poor country back roads which at that time connected Basking Ridge, Mendham, Vealtown (Bernardsville), Morristown and Pessaik (New Vernon). The largest of these villages was probably Morristown boasting at the time of the revolution some two hundred and fifty people.

#### THE EARLIEST BAPTIST

settler seems to have been the Reverend Ichabod Tomkins who was responsible for the congregation of the Morristown Church in 1759.

#### TIMOTHY MILLS SETTLED

in our township about the same year as Samuel Oliver, 1754. Joseph Wood in 1748. Jacob Bockoven in 1764. Their descendants are still here—honored citizens with a long honored history.

#### UP IN THE NATIONAL

Park settlers from Long Island are said to have built the Wick house in 1746. Its name derives from Captain Henry Wick though I think the popular story of how Miss Temperance Wick, called Tempy, hid her pony in the bedroom to escape confiscation by soldiers of the Continental Army holds the interest of later historians. We have named the road leading up the hill "Tempe Wick Road."

#### THE JOHN JOHNSTON

house on Glen Alpin road now occupied by Miss Sarah Longcor dates from about 1751. The Van Doren Mill built in 1842 dates from an original place in 1768 in other hands. The Old Mill Inn is a reconstruction of one of the old storage barns nearby.

#### THE LEE HOUSE

on Lee's Hill road is dated from 1776 though it was not obtained by the Lee family until 1815. There is some popular tradition to the effect that General the Marquis de Lafayette once stopped as guest of the house. The house now much enlarged and restored is occupied today by Warren Kinney.

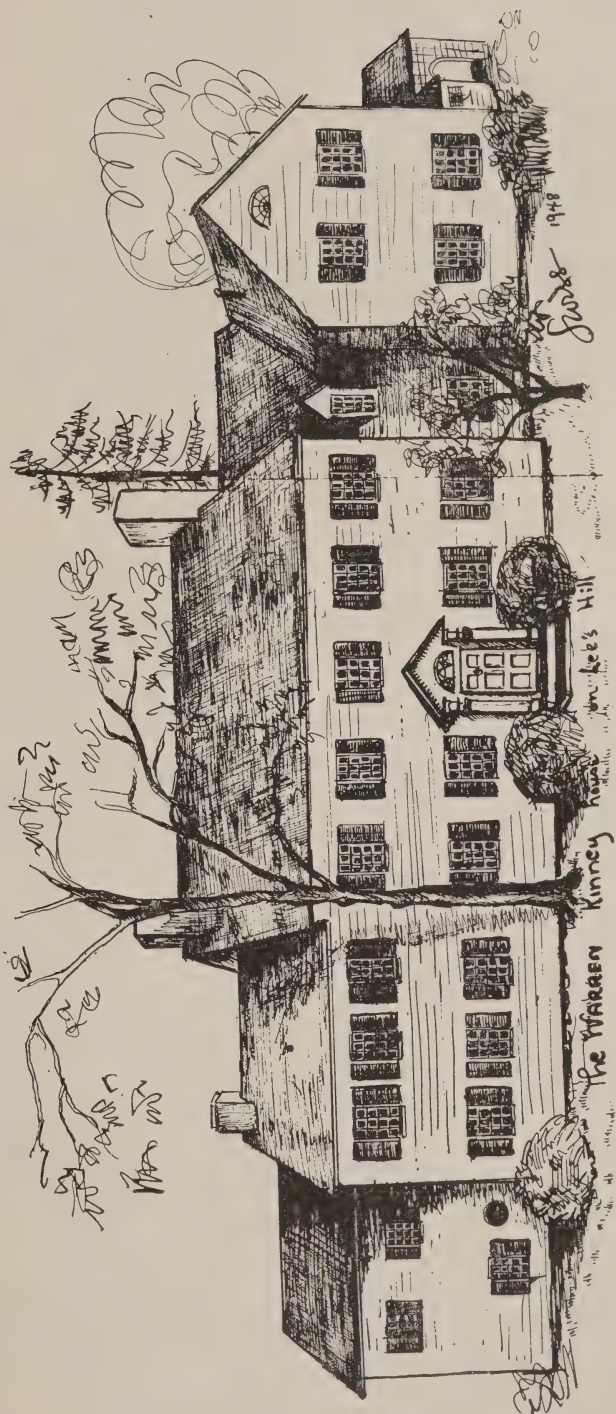
#### ABOUT THE TIME

of the Revolution and shortly thereafter intensive settlement began in these parts. Some of the families include such names as Allen, Guerin, Riggs, Tunis, Ogden, Armstrong, Pierson, Potts, Hand, Hayden, White-nack, Lee, Cross, Handville. History records only three post offices in the province of New Jersey in pre-revolutionary days. At least, in 1752 the only offices were at Amboy, Trenton and Burlington, so far as the present writer has been able to discover.

#### AMONG POST-REVOLUTIONARY

houses still standing one should mention the Conover place on Pleasantville road where the Garitys live now. Down Millbrook









road one will find parts of the old Daniel Tunis place of 1793. There used to be an old tannery across the road from the place and further down the little valley a mill-race and saw-mill near the Conover house. The Fair-child house once stood in the village Park near where now stands the stone monument and tablet. At the time of its erection the house was on the slope of a sharp gradient on Lee's Hill road above the intersection with Village road but now long since graded with more gentle slope. Note the cut between the church and the Schroeder place on the corners.

### THE DRINKWATER PLACE

at the corner of James and Blue Mill just to the south of the little brook may be located by the old stone foundation. Its erection is dated as 1764. The building went to ruin shortly after 1920. The Ephraim Lindsley place stood in the neighborhood of the present Manse on Lee's Hill road. It dated from about 1786.

### ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

houses dotted West Jersey. Locally, there was the stone academy down on Pleasantville road serving that community. I have not ascertained its date but it must have been somewhere around 1795. There also stood until recent years the Logansville schoolhouse near the present Beresford place on Lee's Hill road extension. Then, on Village road in the heart of New Vernon itself the house now occupied by Mr. George Bruns served as a school at one time. A large two-storied building was erected sometime in the nineteenth century at the four corners next to the Presbyterian Church in New Vernon. This building was demolished with

the erection of the new Harding Township school though its memory is still vivid to a large number of the older inhabitants of the region. The school bell, now preserved in the new school, though not in use, bears the date 1749 and the inscription SIC NOMENT DOMINI BENEDICTUM. It came from some nearby church originally. The weather-vane atop the new school came from the Morristown Presbyterian Church on the green when the Colonial building was torn down to give way to the present rugged stone structure.





### THE BEST-KNOWN

local school in the very early days seems to have been that of Basking Ridge under the capable supervision of the Reverend Samuel Kennedy whose excellent discipline and instruction alone served to control the refractory boys of his time. Local folks are said to have called Basking Ridge, "Botany Bay," after the Australian penal colony, because of the large number of naughty boys who were sent to Mr. Kennedy for their schooling. For scholars were practically apprenticed to their teachers prior to the nineteenth century. I have never learned whether or not the public's attitude was **you learn** or else, or, **you teach** or else.

### IN THE EARLY

1740's the town of South Hanover began to take form and grow. The chief settlement became known as Bottle Hill. Part of the Hanover Presbyterian congregation from up Whippany way pulled out to form the present Madison church in 1747. That church was thirty years old when in January 1777 Washington and his troops passed north from victorious Princeton to encamp on what has been called the Loantica Camp Site. That encampment lay between Bottle Hill and what is now Spring Valley, just to the north of the township of Harding. The winter of 1777 was severe and the outbreak of small-pox in the little village of Morristown made things really tough. The epidemic did not severely cripple the army but it was bad enough so that Morristown and the nearby encampment were dubbed "Fever-town." Amongst the Continentals were apparently two local men, Captains John Lindsley and Timothy Mills.

Shortly before the winter encampment at Loantica, General Charles Lee, second in command to Washington, was captured by the British, 13 December, 1776, at the widow White's tavern in Basking Ridge. A tablet marks the spot.

### THE FOLLOWING WINTER

that of 1779-1780, saw the Continental Army take up its winter encampment not in "Fevertown" nor at the old site at Loantica but on Kimball Mountain now Kemble Mountain. The main body of troops comprising elements from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland and Pennsylvania dug in for the winter in what is popularly known as Jockey Hollow Park. The name Jockey Hollow derives from the horse proving grounds in the valley beyond the hills to which the names Tea Hill and Sugar Loaf Mt. had been given. One observer writes of the four hundred chimneys on the mountain referring to the large number of soldier huts erected there.

It was a hard winter particularly severe with heavy falls of snow, wellnigh at one blizzard burying the soldiers huts. Washington writes in January 1780 that "the situation of the army is the most distressing since the beginning of the war." The General himself had not been well. A pretty sick man for several weeks he was cared for at the Ford residence. The headquarters during the time of his illness was established over near the green in Morristown at the Jacob Arnold tavern. Deliveries of food supplies to the troops were made difficult both by reason of the scarcity and the difficulties of transportation. Long periods of time between good meals, lack of bread, lack of meat, brought much distress. Troops went foraging for food though under strict orders with infraction of rules sorely dealt. Continental paper currency was much depreciated and farmers were pretty well put-to to keep themselves alive. It is recorded that in the absence of men-folk off to the service of their country the women and girls of Morris County tilled the fields and kept the home fires burning. The people of the locality were extremely patriotic and homes were thrown open to the accommodation of offi-

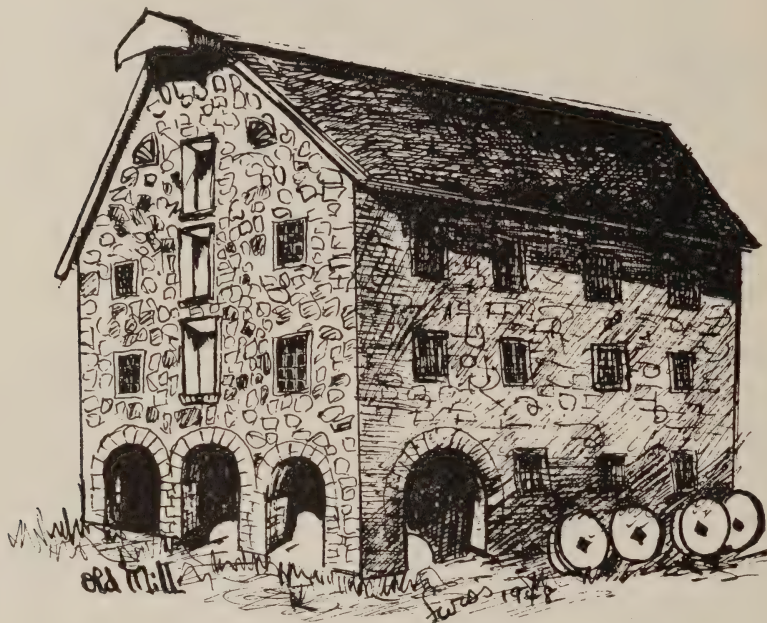


cers and soldiers. General Washington seems to have been particularly well-liked.

### MANY YARNS

come down from those nearly forgotten times. A group of soldiers in a foraging party found a jug in Deacon Allen's cellar and spirited the thing away. To their dismay upon examination the jug contained not rum, not even molasses, but tar. They left it in the field near the premises.

erican troops without sufficient paper wadding for packing their powder and bullets rushed into the church, secured the hymn-books, made distribution, shouting, "Give 'em Watts, boys! give 'em Watts"! The enemy in "retreat" on or about this time burned the church, perhaps in antipathy to Watts, perhaps to Washington's presbyterians who made up more than half of the Continental Army.



The flour mills worked overtime. Where Van Doren's mill now stands dating from 1842 stood a small crude grist-mill founded back about 1768. The storage barn of later date has become today the Old Mill Inn relic of a hundred years of changing history.

Washington's strategy in locating his army in these parts served to give him a position astride the country trails which ran from Kingston on the Hudson to Easton on the Delaware. He could watch for the movement of British troops toward West Point or toward Philadelphia. He could maintain his hold on the iron-bearing mines so important to the supply of material for war. His troops soon after their first encampment at Loan-tica placed a signal gun and tar-barrel beacon on the Watchung Mountains. The eighteen-pounder was called "Old Sow" by the troops and "Old Sow" was there to pound out a husky grunt on the occasion of sighting British Dragoons coming up the King's Way toward Springfield and beyond.

Indeed, efforts were indifferently made to reach Washington at Morristown. The most nearly successful attempt was that by Knyphausen's dragoons who tangled with the outposts of the Continentals near Springfield. History preserves one or two interesting stories connected with the fracas; how that in the Presbyterian kirk, the Reverend James Caldwell, finding the Am-

### DOWN IN BASKING RIDGE

one of the local landlords who owned a seven-hundred acre farm and member of the kirk on the hill was a colonel in the Continental Army. His name was William Alexander though he had in vain tried to secure recognition to a title of Lord Stirling. This self-made peer was also a "character," friend of Washington, and a soldier of dash and daring if the reports of his raids down country near Staten Island are reliable. One such raid, that of January 1780, affords some interesting study, for after only a partially successful excursion against British installations on Staten Island the officer became embarrassed by the looting by civilians from the mainland, and made every effort to restore belongings to the homes of victims who were themselves non-military. Our neighboring town of Stirling derives its name from William Alexander, Lord Stirling.

The so-called Shunpike which runs out of the extension of Village road beyond Green Village and Hickory Tree comes to its name by reason of the fact that raiding Continentals and local farmers and army supply-trains used the back trail to avoid the main roads farther to the north. The main roads to Springfield and sometimes beyond were patrolled by enemy dragoons and had toll-gates.





During the winter of 1780 and 1781 a considerable body of Pennsylvania troops under the command of General Anthony Wayne encamped on the hills back of Glen McAlpin. Poorly provisioned and with long overdue or worthless continental paper-money the troops "mutined." They began their "march" toward Trenton on the first of January. One of their officers was killed in the attempt to prevent them and only after some fast action between General Wayne, the committees of the Continental Congress, and the men, did order prevail. In the fall of 1781 these troops marched north to join with other Continentals who assembled at Newburgh for the final march south to Yorktown.

#### BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS

in 1933 a one-thousand-acre park was established and dedicated on July the fourth of that year by the then Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes. Not long afterwards, particularly in 1936, much work was done to erect suitable huts and buildings in the area, to provide visitors with an idea of the type of soldiers' huts and hospitals used during the occupational years of 1779-1780 and 1780-1781. The Tempe Wick House has since become a museum where once General Arthur St. Clair supervised the Jersey troops encamped on the mountain.

The name of the village at the central point in what is now, since 1922, Harding Township (originally a part of Passaic Township), New Vernon, appeared as far back as 1808 in a death notice in a Morristown paper relative to Mrs. Mary Sturgis. Before that the village (or was it the district?) went under the name of Passaic. This post-revolutionary appearance of the name obviously reflects the memory in the hearts of its citizens of America's first president and his Mount Vernon Home in Virginia. The name was surely fixed by 1809 because a Sunday School, an offshoot of the Presbyterian Church at Morristown, was established in the village. A banner commemorates the event.

There seems to be no particular reference to the War of 1812 in village annals save a note to the effect that Elder Samuel Johnson of the village kirk had once served in the local militia of that period as captain. One source of information indicates that in 1825 about fifty farm-houses stood within a radius of a mile and a half of the village. The period following the Revolution must have been a period of large growth. There are some early grave-stones in the old Methodist Cemetery off what is now Glen Alpin Road a cemetery now reconditioned under a Cemetery Association of more recent founding. The oldest stones in the Presbyterian churchyard, now decipherable, date about 1830 or shortly thereafter.



In the thirties and forties strong waves of religious revival swept through these parts of Jersey. In the earlier decades particularly amongst the presbyterians and baptists and in the forties and fifties among the methodists. As the forests were cleared so the land was brought under cultivation. Ex-soldiers came into the district. At first rude cabins served for homes and then came the saw-mills and the building of better types of farmsteads some of which have outlasted their hundred and twenty years. Some very fine oak timber will be discovered in some of these old houses which have outlasted several generations of men. Handwrought hardware, spikes and nails, prove their antiquity or did prove it until the advent of "antiques" as a business in the twentieth century.



old lantern used outside the church

Yet, whereas kirk and church services were crowded with the law-abiding local people the village had its problems and horse-racing, gambling and over-indulgence in liquor were eschewed by some and followed by others. Local cider-mills turned out excellent cider from the apples of large local orchards often with a quality well-deserving the name "Jersey lightning." In the absence of imported rum during the lean years following the revolution it seems that this had to be. But despite the pros and cons of merry-making during those years the district gained a reputation for a law-abiding people.

## SCHOOLS

were established where necessary. Roads that were trails at the time of the Revolution became well-worn country tracts for the use of farmers and travellers.



Candle lantern used outside the church

The Presbyterian Church, an outgrowth from the earlier Morristown Church, was established in 1832 and the building erected in 1833. Though the exterior is much the same, the interior of that first village church was somewhat different. The pulpit, for example, was well-elevated and the first minister, Mr. Maynard, ascended by narrow spiraling steps. Arriving at the top, he shut himself in by a small wooden door. Pews for the congregation likewise had doors and were straight-highbacked affairs. Heating was not deemed too essential and only after a few years were adequate wood-burning stoves placed in the auditorium. The pipes ran forward to either side of the pulpit and platform, to carry the smoke out through the west wall. Carpets were not considered necessary by these rugged forebears of ours. Carpets were a luxury. There was no organ in the first church. The precentor and choir sat in the balcony and in the earlier services a gentleman with a base fiddle supplied the accompaniment. Latterly, a small harmonium was introduced in this balcony.

A society called the Female Union Missionary Society was formed in 1836. A Sewing Society came into being in 1844. Out of these grew the present Women's Association of New Vernon, an organization which still preserves the "ancient" art of quilting.



the original communion table in the New Vernon kirk



In 1832 it is said that the area of this part of Morris County contained an Indian population of some forty Lenape. Through representation to the State government by a chief named Wilted Grass the Indian remnant were given some financial compensation for property right and moved westward to join other Delaware in the settlement of Indian Territory. Thus, for New Vernon, the Indian question was written off before the war between the states. I believe the 1930 census shows still some two hundred Indians resident in the State.

#### GORDON'S GAZETTEER

1834 mentions New Vernon as "post town of Morris Township, Morris County, 4 miles S.W. from Morristown, 217 miles N.E. from Washington City and 51 miles from Trenton, contains a store, an academy, and 4 dwellings." It would appear that the Gazetteer has somewhat confused the situation both as to the identity of the township and also the population. Surely the 4 dwellings should read 14 or 24!

During 1852 or 1853 with the surge of methodism amongst many groups in these parts an itinerant post was established here in New Vernon and also in Mendham. Such points were established elsewhere in this district during the several years following this. The village Methodist Church, first an itinerant post and later a preaching point for a supply preacher out of Madison, stood on what is now Village Road next to the present place of Herbert Ballentyne. The church was torn down and removed shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. Some of its material went to the erection of a dwelling house or two on Millbrook Road.

But in the fifties and sixties the methodist circuit-riders linked this place with Mine Mountain, Vealtown, Basking Ridge, Pleasant Plains and other points. Later Mendham, Green Village and Morristown were a part of the scheme. In 1864 Basking Ridge and New Vernon were on the one circuit. But the circuits varied with the shifts in interest and something of the vicissitudes of the Civil War as would only be natural.

Among the local presbyterians it is of interest to note that Myersville and New Vernon, the two villages, were frequently served by the one minister. This was the case during the ministry of Elias N. Crane particularly in 1856. Later, in 1862, the Reverend Mr. Luther Van Doren conducted services to link Pleasantville and Logansville communities with New Vernon. Both the former have since disappeared from any place but the memories of our oldest inhabitants particularly with the centralization of education at the two-storied school building on the church corners which stood until shortly after the turn of 1925. Logansville, let it be said, once boasted not only schoolhouse but blacksmith, tiny store, and factories, one of which stood near the present John Yonker place earlier in the hands of one of the Olivers. Pleasantville is now associated only with the road of that name. Its old schoolhouse stood next to the James Connon place. One might add to the Logansville settlement the mention of the very old mill called Bailey's Mill on the road of that name now the residence of the Chapman and Squire families. It is "revolutionary."

There were large slave-holdings in New Jersey prior to the war between the states but by the passage of a law in 1846 which released all such from human bondage the holdings had greatly diminished. Princeton College during the pre-war years was known particularly in abolitionist circles as the "slave masters' College" because of the sizeable groups of southern lads who came up for schooling at Old Nassau.

#### ONE OF THE INTERESTING

documents in the archives of the local church happens to be a printed sermon by the reverend Mr. John C. Rankin of the neighboring Basking Ridge kirk. It bears the title "Our Danger and Duty" and was preached shortly after South Carolina had seceded from the Union and seven other states were shortly to follow, 4 January, 1861. The sermon was the occasion of a national fast day proclaimed by the president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.





Mr. Rankin refers to New England as the mother of all our troubles. He points to the flagrant over-statements and the wicked war-mongering by abolitionists. He holds to the thesis that not abolition but the preservation of the Union is the key to the situation. Says he, "if the principle of secession is recognized, our Government is a mere rope of sand." For the negro if and when emancipated, Mr. Rankin feared another St. Bartholomew's Day. History has shown how far wrong he was in that prediction. The speaker says that north and south alike have sinned. No alarmist, he commends the people of New Jersey for a sane non-bigoted attitude toward the issues involved. Calling upon all to see that national unity is preserved he closes with the now famous dictum, "The Union! it must and shall be preserved."

Local folk formed the Temperance Society in 1862 during the Civil War and its initial roster covered a large representative group of citizens. This organization ceased to exist in 1911 and seems to have done a creditable piece of work in maintaining the morale of the neighborhood and preserving the tradition of its founding fathers. New Vernon Women were largely responsible for the maintenance of the organization. With the object of improving local and community social and financial goods in 1867 at the close of the war a society formed themselves under the chairmanship of Mrs. Hendrickson whose home was on the site of the present Henry Colgate place on Blue Mill Road. They called it the Mite Society.

#### WHEN OUR OLDEST

resident would have been but in her early thirties there appeared a short-lived local paper called "The New Vernon Review" dated as volume one and number one, 17 June 1885. The editor was H. L. Drinkwater whose place of residence I have already referred to on the James Street corners. The paper was announced to be published on Wednesday morning and at its first appear-

ance gave salute to the following papers of the day: The Palladium of Liberty (Morristown), The Chronicle, The Pleasantville Times, The Blizzard, The Review, the New Vernon News, The Echo. All these have long since disappeared together with the New Vernon Review."

From a single copy in the archives of the kirk the following items are gleaned. From the minutes of the Board of Alderman for the first of April 1885, George Beers then Mayor (followed in office by Mayor Stevens), the following. "Moved that horse-trading is a growing evil in our community, and that we as a body of Alderman elected by the people, to preserve peace and good order, enact laws to prohibit the growing evil. Carried. Moved that tea parties in our neighborhood by the old residents is becoming a serious calamity, in influencing the younger generation to dissipation and late hours, be referred to the regular committee. Carried."

In those days George Beers and John Oliver, republican and democrat, were the best of friends and the principle trustees of the kirk on the corner. It is said that they held trustees' meetings together in the garden or in front of the store and thereupon decided all of the important issues of the day in this conversational manner. Much of the practice and tradition of these times probably died with these fine and energetic citizens of the village who carried much of the lore of the place with them to their graves.

Concerning John Oliver the Review mentions under town items that "Mr. John Oliver is the largest potato grower in this section of the country, having planted thirteen acres, and, as we go to press, they are going through a thorough state of cultivation".

#### ANOTHER "TOWN ITEM"

reads that "Our village butcher is doing a thriving business and is very much liked by all. We know he is very obliging, and would like to serve everybody at the same time



judging by the conversation we overheard the other morning, which, was something like this, 'Come Goble, be lively now, break the bones in Mrs. Beers' chops, and put Mr. Smith's ribs in his basket'. 'All right, sir, just as soon as I've cut off Oliver's leg'".

Humour in 1885 ran something like the following, 'Why is a secret like a bank bill?' Because after it has once left the teller no one knows how far it will travel'. Or this. 'It is said that a violin played among a flock of geese will start them dancing. Everyone who has attended a dance is aware of the fact'.

One article calls itself "A Needed Reform" and we wonder who had his tongue in his cheek as it was written. For the author goes on to ask in strong protest, why must young men stay until two a.m. when they call on their girl friends? And why not, suggests the writer, set a standard and make 11:30 p.m. the time for departure? To which we of the twentieth century may answer—and so our grandparents had their juvenile problems also!

## WITH THE PASSING

of old farmsteads and the change of the times some families persist and some remain. Roads such as Glen Alpin which were only cow-paths at the time of the Revolution have since become turnpikes and fine highways. Farms and farmers have come and gone. Many large estates have risen up in their place. The village of Passaic has become New Vernon and the township of Passaic in part now Harding Township. The great four-posters have become beauty-rests and the thick feather-filled quilts and huge hand-made covers now simple spreads. The bedroom once the most expensive room in the home has gradually given way to the modern kitchen for sheer luxury and completeness. Much of the township maintains a tradition of the country. No public water or other utilities beyond electric current. No buses except for our growing groups of chil-

dren. No franchises for shops, stands and roadside places except the simple requirements of village life: a volunteer fire company, a good school, a church, a garage and a delightful little combined post office and country store. This is a delightful bit of backwater and a place of placid citizens on the borders of metropolitan Jersey.

The historical lecture of 14 December 1947 ended a survey of about two hundred years of local history and ended with about the year 1885. I now wish to pick up the threads of the story from about 1850 and trace the outline of events from that date to the present. This is a difficult task because it means selectivity. It is difficult because much of it is contemporary. But it is a delightful task as well!

## Huge Bell

In 1854 a huge one-thousand pound bell passed through Morristown enroute for the new Methodist Church on Village Road. Bishop Janes had dedicated the New Vernon structure back of what is now Schroeders house in February. On Independence Day the bell was to ring for the first time and the ladies were to hold a grand fair and bazaar. The Morristown paper "The Jerseyman" which heralded the event originated in 1826. It was not until 1917 that it became "The True Republican Banner".

The Methodist Church stood until the 1920's when it was dismantled as I have indicated in the former article. In its neighborhood stood the Presbyterian kirk, William Hunting then minister. The old Bedell place, afterwards the Bishops and now the Ballentyne's, residence of our town tax-collector, was standing. The Bruns house served as the academy though since revamped and shingled. The Harrison house was standing also subsequently renovated. Those old places retain in part the ancient dutch oven and Colonial fireplaces with the old-fashioned gear.





Tucker, a northern sympathizer, had been burned out in Virginia. His place, now the Schroeders, was then standing. The old kitchen with its many windows served as a tailor shop for the making of uniforms during the war between the States. Later, the house passed through the hands of various owners: Abraham Riggs, the Coverts, the Tower Bates. Mrs. Frank Oliver was born in that house.

The two-storied school-house had not yet been built. That came in the late seventies. But up the other end of the street several homes of the Tunis family, which owned much of the Millbrook area, were standing; also the Potts house further down and possibly the Miller-Woods house. Millbrook road seems to have been an established country artery of traffic before Village Road at the New Vernon end was really surveyed out.

#### Mail By Stage

There is no certain record of the first post office in the village but it is believed that the mails came by stage through the village and were distributed from the local store at the corners by the kirk. It was after the Civil War that a regular post office seems to have been established. Rural routes out of Morristown were only perfected in the middle 1890's though the post office in the town of Morris dates back to 1782. During the War of Independence Morristown was on the mail routes which avoided British-occupied areas: Fishkill-Morristown-Philadelphia via the Chester Road. Ralston claims to be the oldest post office (1781) in this vicinity.

The Green Village Methodist Church, which lies in Harding Township, antedated the New Vernon church by eleven years (1842). Its centennial was observed in 1942. The original church near the intersection of Spring Valley and Village Roads from 1843 was replaced by the present shingled

structure in 1906. Both churches have had a close history. The original families in the Green Village church include the Parcells, Muchmores, Badgleys and Moore. Some years later William Stull seems to have been a most active office-holder and guiding spirit amongst its lay leadership.

Nearby the church in Green Village one will notice the DAR memorial stone set-up to designate a point at which the Continental Army passed en route from Princeton to the Loantaka encampment in January 1777. Its accuracy is questioned.

Proceeding up Spring Valley Road one passes the old Muchmore site—the place where lived the maker of the famous salve to heal all ills whose formula, alas, passed with the passing of the maker.

#### One Room School

During this period (1854) stood the little stone schoolhouse where Millbrook debouched into Pleasantville Road. Scholars attended this one-room school up until the late seventies to quote the older inhabitants. Finally, when it had served its day and generation the rubble stone was turned to good account in the construction and repair of the roads through the Great Swamp, particularly that leading towards Myersville. The neighboring homes still standing included the Conover place where live the Garitys; the Ogden place since owned by the Mullens and the Bates and now the Holdens. The Tunis house on Millbrook was also there. The sawmill on the creek back of Conovers was probably there. The Edward Walling (Mullen) and Ballentyne places (Lindebom) were probably just being erected. Fire destroyed the Walling place in September 1922 before the Fire Company had secured its apparatus.

The Holden house has since been in the 1930s the place where "Yorktown", an his-

torical film, was photographed in part. The occasion attracted huge crowds because the filming was done at night. The special jumper brought in for the occasion failed to jump the stone-wall erected for the occasion near the house making it necessary for the film-editors to erect a stone-wall under the horse in the picture. "Why didn't they use one of our famous local jumpers?" was the observation of the local people who watched the proceedings.

Quite a number of places are still standing today which stood in 1854. I think of the Totten farm-house on the Myersville Road out of Green Village. The places now occupied by George Smith and Glenn Gower on Lee's Hill Road. The Yonker and Burnett farmhouses on the same road hard by Primrose Brook. The Van Horn farm further along now incorporated in the Beresford place. Though I should say that the "red" schoolhouse alongside the latter dates from the Civil War period. The one-room schoolhouse still vivid in the memory of our people in the Logansville area was used up until the late 1920s. The old stone step is now a step at the Mills Bockoven place.

### Hamlet Names

Old Jersey maps, for example, the New Jersey Geological Survey set of 1894 retain the hamlet names: Logansville, Pleasantville, Pleasant Plains, Madisonville locally, we call "the Coffee-House". It is the little settlement up the hill about the manor-house (Bagg) beyond Bernards Water Works.

A few of the names of the teachers who taught in that Logansville schoolhouse will conjure up vivid memories of apples for the teacher and birch rods for naughty boys. Eva Childs, Edna F. Denniston, Susie A. Quimby, Marion S. Dayton, Constance I. Haddon, Madalyn E. Moore and Lewis E. Horton. New Jersey is proud of its schools which began a long way back perhaps at Bergen Square in Jersey City in 1664. These are but a few of the names of a long line of great folk who have given themselves to the instruction of our children.

While on Lee's Hill Road one should make special mention of a large farm with a reputation for the finest herd of Brown Swiss in this part of the country. The Mrs. William Berliner farm, previously owned by the Colonel Mann family, passed into the hands of our fellow-citizens, Warren Kinney, in 1924. Elements of the original buildings were incorporated in the extensive renovation and enlargement by the new owner.

The present Seward Smith house probably dates back to this mid-century period, in part at least. And across Village Road a part of the old Conley farmstead has been included in the larger place now occupied by the Percy Francis family.

### Land Sold

To the other side of the township the old Peter Kemble land passed from his daughter by sale in 1810 to David I. Lindsey, Jacob Goble, Nathan Mills and Abraham Bockoven. The Slopers live in the old Corbin place. The large Bockoven farmstead also on the lower side of the road is occupied by the De Rienzos. The Wick (1746) and the Guerin (1776) houses were still intact in 1854. The latter has disappeared, though a portion of one of the Guerin places is incorporated in the Wilfrid Wood estate. The former was restored in 1934.

Where Sand Spring Road debouches into Mt. Kemble Avenue (called "the Mountain Road" for many years) still stands the old brick schoolhouse. It was first mentioned in a Jared Goble deed of 1823. In 1840 Charles W. McAlpin purchased the land about what has since been called the McAlpin Corners. At the time of purchase the intersection of Mt. Kemble Avenue and Tempe Wick Road was known as Hoyt's Corners. Up Tempe Wick Road the Manor-house now occupied by Charles Pyle was probably standing in 1854. The old Peter Kemble Manor-house was to be removed from the corners and reconstructed in its present location. It went under the manorial name, "Glyntwood". In my former paper I gave its date as 1750. This might better





be revised to 1765 for its original building. Mt. Kemble owes its name to about 1763 one Richard Kemble, but this date is approximate.

Mills Bailey (1851) bought much of the land known as the Hollow and the same was sold by auction in 1873 largely to the Morris Aqueduct which developed the Sand Springs and purveyed water rights to the Town of Morristown later on. Much of the eastern slopes of the mountain were a part of the purchases made by William P. Jenks nearer the turn of the century.

ment (1922) are evidence of the origin and persistence of that village as a place of homes and hard-working citizens.

### Passaic Township

Jumping to the year 1866 we have the formation of Passaic Township from a part of Morris (and other political elements). Unfortunately, some of the early records of the new township were destroyed by fire in the first decade of this century.

William Hunting (1853) was succeeded by Elias Crane (1856) then by Luther Van Doren



### Grist Mills

I have already referred elsewhere to the Van Doren Mills on the Somerset boundary and to the Bailey Mills on Bailey's Mill Road. When farms dotted the countryside in the Logansville area, as elsewhere, a grist mill for every twenty or more farms was necessary. Grinding and milling was a much more laborious process in the mid-nineteen hundreds than now. There was also a mill over at the Silver Lake dam on the Blue Mill. For many years within the memory of our oldest inhabitants the Stull brothers ground grist in their mill across the road from the Blanchard house now occupied by the Bishops.

Proceeding up the hill toward Kovens on Dixons' Mill Road one passes along the stream which carries the spillway water from Silver Lake. There once was a large pond reaching almost to Silver Lake and there stood Robert's sawmill and later a cider mill, hence the name, Dixons.

Cherry, walnut, pine and maple were once plentiful in the mid-nineteenth century, particularly so in the Great Swamp which, by the old records, extended from Bottle Hill (Madison) to Long Hill. One of the original mortgage-holders on some of this area was said to be Aaron Burr. Rich in timber, the place was rich and is still rich in muskrats (called "mushrats" locally). One of our most astute trappers caught several hundred last season. The Robert's sawmill in Green Village and a sawmill near where now stands the Green Village Fire Depart-

(1832) as ministers in the local New Vernon kirk. The Manse stood to the front of the present structure (1890). The fourteen-year pastorate of Nathaniel Conklin commenced in 1870. James M. Anderson served the kirk from 1884. But the longest local pastorate was that of Edwin Murgatroyd whose ghost still occupies the Manse and who lived here from 1890 to 1913, in the flesh.

It would be impossible to name all of the homes that sprang up from the opening of the new Methodist Church in 1854 to the beginning of the Murgatroyd pastorate in 1890. We should be obliged to overburden the reader with dates and surely do injustice to certain houses that would be inadvertently omitted. Yet I cannot but name a few places which, for one reason or other, chronologically or architecturally, mean something. The old place of the Stammen sisters has become the Purdy Benedict home on Lee's Hill Road. The old victorian farmstead on the Van Buren place a part of the Mellon estate. The Wenman and Haskell place on Sand Spring the May home. The McAlpin and Pyle places on Mt. Kemble Avenue the homes of the Princess and Gerhardt Wagner. The Childs houses further down the avenue presently occupied by Alfred Earl and S. Barker.

### Fairchild House

One can identify some old sites when houses no longer stand. For example, in the New Vernon Park opposite the Oliver lawn on Blue Mill are two pines. Behind them stood the Fairchild house. And after

old Congregational  
now w/it games  
(1808)



timbering (1946)  
still standing  
opp. Reg. oilbois



water pond

Saichild  
house

n.v. store or  
post office



School #1



Presbyterian  
the church  
in New Vernon

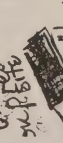
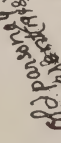
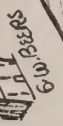


(original  
parsonage  
was of  
Revolutionary  
period)

(undisturbed)

old  
parsonage  
1808

old  
parsonage  
1808



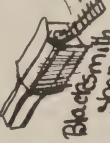
Barrow



this was the N.V. Academy



Blacksmith  
shop



M.E. Church



NEW VERNON  
TOWN OF PASSAIC  
inc. 1868  
MAY 1990

Swiss

Canfield's





the house had disappeared the Tiers ice-barn used for purposes of storage of ice from the pond whose dam was constructed in 1932 principally for a local water supply against fire. Lilacs were also planted in the tradition of the twin elms or twin spruce or twin pine. Speaking of lilacs, one will find a profusion of them in front of the Nye house on Lee's Hill Road; also great acacias delicately scented during the brief season of their appearance.

Many of our local children attend private and parochial schools located in neighboring towns. The Bayley School began in 1887. Of those who attend outside church services a goodly number go to St. Peter's in Morristown, dedicated in 1889. The oldest Roman Catholic church in these parts, called "mother church", is claimed by our neighbor town of Madison. And the most famous hostelry and hotel for many years (1827) has been until fairly recently, the United States Hotel in Morristown.

Morristown was a summer resort in the 1890's. The finest four miles of road in the U.S.A. stretched out towards Madison. Fine carriages and footmen identified the equipage of the well-to-do. A newspaper column on society events might read "Mr. Geoffrey Jones drove a fine pair of grays with banded tails to an elegant launcelot on leather and steel springs, with a tiger complete, a very showy turnout". The "tiger" none other than the servant in livery!

The nearest hospital facilities for our-townsmen were those opened in 1892 in Morristown: All Souls and Memorial. The deed of transference of the former contained land owned by a liberated negro slave. All Souls was responsible for removing the old Jacob Arnold Tavern from Morristown "Green" to a site across from the present

hospital on Mt. Kemble Avenue. The place was enlarged. Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire several years later.

### Great Blizzard

The "Great Blizzard" of March 11-12, 1888, is an historical landmark. Since that time we have had the "Cyclone of 1922", the "Lake Denmark Explosion" of 1926, "the Windstorm of 1938", the "Hercules Powder Explosion at Kenvil in 1940", and now the "Ice-Storm of 1948". In 1920, Postmaster Haley rescued the charred sacks of government mail from a plane which downed on what is now the Frelinghuysen estate killing its driver—Pilot Miller.

Local women formed a chapter of "The King's Daughters" in October 1891. The present Women's Association of New Vernon came into being in 1933. Much sewing was done for orphanages here and hereabouts. During the years some of the local homes, particularly down in the old Pleasantville area, have been opened for the care and nurture of children on behalf of certain state and charitable organizations. School-space has acted as a deterrent for an extension of this.

When, at the turn of the century (1900) New Vernon and its environs had less than six hundred people and our larger neighbor, Morristown, boasted 11,200, there appeared in June the first number of the first volume of "The Daily Record." Since that time the "Record" and the "Eagle" (Madison) have covered the news here.

The Vanburen and Tiers families had extensive holdings in the northern parts of the area in 1900. The houses occupied by the Lords, the Eggers, the Seydels were built around the turn of the century and perhaps later enlarged and altered. A New Vernon





Land Company was organized twenty years later to insure a continuance of the rural atmosphere considered desirable by the local inhabitants; no buses, no street lights, no roadside concessions.

#### Bequests Made

When the properties of the Company passed under the control of Howard and Louise Bayne in the late twenties generous bequests were made for the benefit of the community. On Sand Spring Lane a large-sized piece of ground was given in 1929 as "A Field for Neighborly Sport". The local park with its artificial pond came as a gift with the event marked by a huge stone with set-in plaque "This monument has been here placed by the residents of the Township of Harding, State of New Jersey, in recognition of the generosity of their neighbor Howard Bayne, Esq. of New Vernon who presented this property to the Township for use as a park in the year A.D. 1937".

The names of prominent citizens appear in the list of ruling elders at the New Vernon kirk around and after the turn of the century in the decades under review: N. D. Goble, Leonard W. Heyer, Howard G. Drinkwater, Elber Bebout, Nelson Closson, Horace Van Horn and Lewis F. Wood.

The two-storied school-house on the four corners by the kirk served its day and generation from about 1870 until 1929. The building was used for meetings of various types and for Sunday School. It was torn down shortly after 1929 and the land purchased by Howard Bayne and presented, together with the wee triangle bordered by the county roads to the kirk in the interest of assuring the traditions of beauty and peace in the countryside. The new presently occupied township school was built in 1926-31 except for the cupola which was added later

to lend architectural beauty. The cupola came by way of public subscription.

Many of our local residents will recall the names of the teachers in the old two-storied school-house before its demise: Alice F. Anderson, Ruth M. Hunt, Cora L. Fritts, Mabel E. Ward, Edith A. Honeychurch, Frank Smith, Jr., Helen L. Waugh, Gertrude M. Blackley and others whom I may not have listed.

#### Trolley Cars

The first horse-drawn trolley cars appeared between Morris Plains and Morristown in 1909. Gasolene curb stations appeared about that time. Ten years later (1920) drive-in places began to come into their own. At the junction of Millbrook and Village roads in 1909 the village folk began the erection of the New Vernon Field Club. It was to serve as club and firehouse until 1927 when it was removed to the Wiss property across the way for purpose of dwelling-house. It was later destroyed by fire. The new fire house began with a frolic in December 1927. But that gets us ahead of our story!

By the turn of the century George and William Smith who had a store and post office at the four corners on what is now the lawn of Constable Emery had absorbed the business of Abraham Riggs across the street. William carried on alone. In 1910, however, he sold his business to Wilbur Haley and Jack Green. The new owners shortly thereafter planned the removal from the old site to the Millbrook intersection. This transfer was made in the approved fashion of the day, a horse and turnstile, ropes and greased runners. During the week required for the moving business carried on as usual. In 1919 Jack Green sold out to his partner and Haley carried on until September 1927 when he in turn sold out to the Maxwells.

This sale may be said to have marked the





end of the country-store tradition: the stove, the spittoon, the cracker-barrel, the yarnsters. The premises were enlarged. The Haleys had first lived on the corner opposite the Field Club in one of the old Tunis houses, since gone. The Maxwells decided to add a second story to the store. And so it was done—Harold Maxwell being responsible for much of the work. He is also responsible with his mother for the present enlargement of the facilities to meet the modern demands for fresh and frozen foods as well as packaged goods.

#### **Tribute to Haley**

Before one leaves the story of Wilbur Haley and the store, a tribute should be paid to the man who, in December of 1920, called together fifteen of his fellow-townsmen and proposed the organization of a volunteer fire company to protect more adequately the property of the area. The first meeting took place in the rear room of the present store. Subsequent meetings in 1921 led to the formation of the new company which today has grown to a hundred members together with a very excellent auxiliary group of the women of the community.

The fire in the Wenman place and the loss of the Edward Walling property stimulated local residents to action. Meetings were held in the old two-story school-house, in the New Vernon Field Club (later to become the first fire house) and in the Chapel of the kirk which had been erected and dedicated by Pastor Murgatroyd in June 1909. The slogan of those years is still the slogan of the fire-fighters "save the property, never mind your clothes, don't run back to fetch your hat, give us a hand with the piano and **HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR!**"

#### **Charter Members**

A list of the charter members includes all of the old timers in these parts, many of

them (13) who in 1921 had been veterans of World War I. The first president was N. D. Goble whose passing in 1945 at the age of eighty-one was a community tragedy. Goble, an auctioneer by profession, was an elder in the kirk and, for many years, tax-assessor for the new township—its first and only! We now have able Earle Cutler in that difficult and unenviable position. The president of the company in 1948 is Edgar Barrett. The first secretary and also its chaplain was A. E. Thistleton. The ministers incumbent in the local kirk have since that time successively been the chaplains. All meetings open with prayer. Once a year the Company attend church in a body. The monthly meetings are a model in typical American town-meeting government.

The secretary's office was taken by George Beers who then lived on Lee's Hill Road in the house which has been largely remodelled by the Young family. Beers served from 1926 until 1944. The first treasurer was Reginald Oliver. Fred Mullen as treasurer holds the longest record in office. Lee Gleim in very able and acceptable fashion has succeeded to the late George Beers' office.

The Seagrave Pumper was purchased in 1928, the Ford in 1934. A siren was installed in 1923 and it is sounded at high-noon each day. The great clock, a gift from Seth Thomas, Jr., was placed in the tower front (1928) shortly after the completion. Additions were made to kitchen facilities in 1941. During World War II, the A.W.V.S. and Defense Council made their headquarters at the Fire Company. Scrap drives originated there. An air-raid warning post was established together with lookout points on Lee's Hill. Eleven members served in the War and many of the newer members recently joined have seen service. The Honor



Roll across from the building carries 161 names.

In the year 1905 Blacksmith Fowke bought out Clarence Irving and continued for eleven years a business that included smithing, carriage repair, re-tiring and painting and other work of like character. Then, in 1916, he was bought out by the present garage operator, Herbert Ortman, who greatly enlarged the facilities, particularly in 1924, to meet the demands of the modern age of the automobile. He has served his friends and neighbors well through thirty-odd years on Village road.

Harding Township was created as a political unit out of the northern section of Passaic Township through action by the state authorities after representation to them by our leading citizens. The reason for the new order of things lay in the desire to maintain the rural atmosphere of this part of the country. The township controls some twenty miles of metalled road. Through part of it runs a state highway. Morris County also cares for several main arteries of traffic which reach into the heart of the Village. The total area is given as 21.3 square miles.

Shortly after the formation in 1 September, 1922 the necessary political organization locally was effected. The governing body, a township committee, meets once monthly. The membership of the present group of three consists of the veteran John Quinn and two newer men in the work, William Notter and Dudley Jackson. In 1923 a Board of Education was established and a Board of Health the same year.

Robert M. Henry (1922) was succeeded by

James Boal (1924), who remained minister of the local kirk for twelve years. The Morristown Community Chest began its extensive organization in 1922 and has been very liberally supported by residents in this area.

The largest home in the township would probably be that of the late (d. 1932) Seth Thomas, Jr. Head of the firm of that name, Seth Thomas served for ten years as president of the Morris County Fair Association. Early in the 1920's he interested himself in this area, bought and built. He created the Spring Valley Harriers, later Spring Valley Hounds. He was active with Vanburen, Bayne and others in the Spring Valley Association in its earlier days. Also, the Horse Show development.

But our largest compact group of homes began its mushroom growth in 1927. I refer to the Mount Kemble Lake development, the community and club. In 1926 scattered farms in the southwestern part of the hill country were bought up and a stream of water dammed so as to create an artificial lake several acres in extent. Around this delightful body of water a community began to evolve and now numbers about sixty homes (1948). The Spring Brook development off Mount Kemble avenue lies out of the township, dates from 1936, but forms no part of our local story.

The years of largest growth for houses in the twenty-thousand-dollar bracket and upward runs from 1925 to 1938. People came out this way from the towns—many because of their love for horses and hounds and the outdoors. The township has many miles of bridle path. Tower Bates particularly worked for this. Floyd Kirkpatrick also





vastly interested himself in this phase of township life before removal to Maplewood to become administrator of the Marcus Ward home. To mention some of the largest houses: the Henry A. Colgate place on Blue Mill formerly the Hendricksen farm; the Leon Freeman estate on the same road. The Clifford Brown and Chester Pope places on Vanburen road. The Andrew Derr, Jr. place on Blue Mill. The William Schultz stone house (formerly Bayne's) on Village road. The Bertram Cutler home. The Gaston house, originally Connett's, on Blue Mill. The Frelinghuysen and Emert places off James street. The Gillespie estate, now the Luptons, off Blue Mill road. The Spencer Weed estate. The Ackerman house above Silver Lake off Red Gate road. The May house on Sand Spring. The Pitney, now the Barbour, and Ritterbush on Sand Spring. The Koven estate off Dixon's Mill road. The D'Olier and Reeve places, the Chapmans and Squires, on Bailey's Mill, the Ford and Ross homes off Young's road. The Klipstein and Palache houses off Long Hill road as well as the newer Bayne estate. These are just a few additional names of homes or houses to which I have probably referred elsewhere in the text.

Many of our neighbor cities held gala affairs in celebration of the bicentennial of George Washington in 1932. The New Vernon Fire Company participated in Morristown though many of our townsfolk visited the beautiful pageant in Madison. The local kirk held services commemorating its one hundredth anniversary in 1933. In 1939 Morris County celebrated its two hundredth anniversary. This is an old country with a lot of history and a lot of occasions for celebration.

One of the annual affairs claimed by Madison but also belonging in part at least to the Township of Harding is the Morris and Essex Kennel Club display on the grounds of Marcellus Dodge. To this show breeders come from all over the country to display their dogs. Thousands of cars and

thousands of visitors make the show the greatest one-day affair imaginable. Local people have interested themselves in dogs and some of the kennels for training hunting dogs like those of William Connon or for breeding show French Poodles like the Frelinghuysens, represent the best in that type of tradition.

We have also a specialist in the Chinchilla Rex rabbit, Mrs. Purdy Penedict. The Geoffrey Beresfords have bred a fine herd of registered Hampshire sheep. William Notter has taken many prizes with his fancy bantam stock. Others of us have our pet cats and canaries and goldfish as in any normal American community. Down on Bailey's Mill road a very active organization known as Bailey's Mill Beagles got under way in the late thirties with Richard Reeve as first master of hounds. Anne Reeve now carries that office.

A plan to create water storage areas in this part of New Jersey known as the Bunnvale Plan would involve this area since much of it constitutes a large part of the Great Swamp. Municipal opposition to the project has slowed down the proceedings of the State Water Policy Commission. Geological maps show ten thousand years ago the presence of a large lake covering much of Harding Township and adjacent regions. The new project would attempt more or less to utilize the natural drainage elevations of that original lake.

### Oil Boom Rumored

In 1943 someone discovered the presence of what appeared to be oil here. It was rumoured that twelve thousand acres were to be immediately leased and machinery brought in for drilling though there is no particular history of oil in New Jersey. A petition was circulated amongst the property owners to circumvent what might become the quick commercialization of the area. I quote the petition in part. "The New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, now in force for many years provides that there

shall be no trade, manufacture or business of any description whatsoever on the properties included in this agreement unless properly changed by new covenants, adequately adopted by the property owners concerned." No drilling! No oil!

In the thirties the desire for protection of the game of the area took shape. The formation of a Gun Club to protect the natural game resources followed. Under the title, Harding Township Game Protective Association, the necessary organization took place with the result that Harding game was reserved for Harding residents. This countryside is well-posted every year. And of game there seems to be aplenty! Herds of twenty or thirty deer in the Great Swamp or on Kemble Mountain are not uncommonly seen.

Joseph Irwin became local minister in 1936. He was followed by Charles Eberhardt in 1942 and by the present writer in 1947. Prominent New Vernonites who hold office as ruling elders in the kirk today include the names of Fred Mullen, Edward Walling, Eugene Wear, who is also township clerk, Daniel Crane, Edward Merickle, Jack Green, Dorman Sutton, who is also chief ranger in the National Park nearby, and Howard A. Baxter.

### Form PTA

A Parent-Teachers Association was formed in 1944 with Mrs. Robert Post as its initial president to be followed by Mrs. Howard Baxter and now for two terms, Mrs. James Connon. It is a very fine organization with much promise. They have recently made an interesting canvass of the community.

The township officials from as far back as 1930 have zoned the area into Class A and B residential areas and a business zone. The effort is made to maintain something of the class of an old American country community in a day of rapid and sometimes fearfully rapid changes. Yet, the classification by the local youth will probably outlast in its frankness at least the formal political and social distinctions. Do you live on Village Road in New Vernon towns? You are a

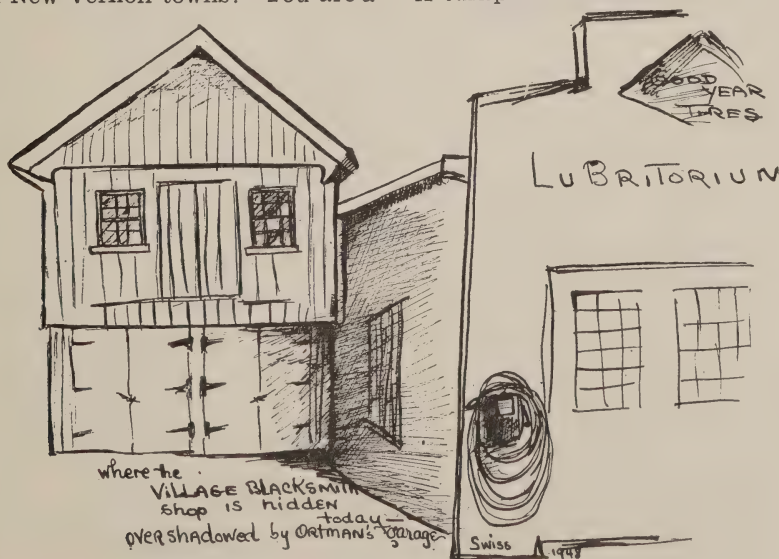
city slicker! Do you live in one of our depressed pieces of terrain? You are a swamp rat. Do you live on a hill where breezes blow? Then, you are a hill skunk. But this is strictly inside information and off the record so far as history is concerned.

Nearly a hundred of our local children go to outside schools. The local school with its excellent staff of teachers under Principal Paul Wert is bubbling near the two hundred mark rapidly. A post war-building campaign has begun again and within the next ten years one may safely predict an increase in our population of a thousand people. Our electorate has already climbed up around the nine hundred mark. Quite recently the township has been divided into two election districts to facilitate the handling of the balloting. The line runs along Millbrook and Sand Spring Roads to cut the township almost in half. This is as of 1948.

This series of articles is really a continuation of former studies dealing with the life and times of a very small but interesting part of Morris County. So much excellent research has been done around the larger towns that one feels a call to exploit the possibilities to be found in the really rural parts. What might there be behind place names like Osborn Mills and Spinach Corners, for example? And though this study may dip into the past **behind the Civil War period** as is so often done by those engaged in research, I shall try to centralize events around 1865, just out of the range of the shadows behind our grandfathers. Shades of great grandma!

Let us look at several of the maps available for public inspection in our neighboring libraries.

Based on surveys on or about 1769 there was published in Great Britain an interesting map of THE PROVINCE OF NEW JERSEY, 1777. Little of detail is indicated but there is sufficient material to show us the great roads of the day in and around Morris Town. A turnpike runs from Morris Town through





South Hanover to Springfield. Another pike runs from Morris Town to Mendham. A mountain road runs from Springfield through Turkey to Baskeridge. A fourth great road goes north from Morris Town to Percypeny. For the modern we may translate Turkey into New Providence, Baskeridge into Basking Ridge, South Hanover into Madison and Percypeny into Parsippany.

Only a few descriptive names appear in the section which concerns us. Mount Kemble is so-named. Great Swamp and Long Hill are so-named. A part of the area between Mt. Kemble and the Great Swamp is called Broadwell and may refer to the family of that name, having among others, at the time of the Revolution a representative in one, Sam Broadwell. Down near what is now the Bernard's Water Works, the name Breese, is written on the map. This too is a very old family name. Back a hundred years ago one of the Breese family ran a stagecoach which passed through Logansville over to Elizabeth Town.



Another map which you may consult is the THOMAS GORDON: MAP OF NEW JERSEY, 1828. A perusal of this will bring to focus the place-names of certain old towns of the period. Bernardsville was called Vealtown. Madison was called Bottle Hill. A little collection of farmsteads on the present Spring Valley Road was designated on this map under the name Spring Valley. The familiar names: Green Village, New Vernon, Long Hill, Basking Ridge and Logansville appeared. Great Brook and Black Brook were also so-named. Primrose Brook also. This stream derived its name from the Primrose family, one of whom lived on Mount Kemble avenue, during the Revolution, on the upper side of the road opposite the old John S. Green place or thereabouts. This is several hundred yards over the Harding Township line into Morris Township up beyond the old Brick Schoolhouse at Sand Spring Lane.

JOHN LITTEL'S: MAP OF PASSAIC VALLEY, 1845, is worthy of some scrutiny. It covers the lower part of Harding Township. One of the place names is the curious or quaint designation, "Coffee House", the little settlement called Madisonville. This, of course, takes one into Somerset County. This Saw Mill, where now stands the Bernard's Water Works, is not designated by name but it may have been Beard's or Ricky's. This map designates in large type much of the area around Pleasant Plains Road and the lower end of Lee's Hill Road (what we call Logansville) as LOGAN'S TRACT. The cartographer departed from the common custom and called Great Brook the Big Brook or Robert's Brook; this due no doubt to the fact that Roberts had an important saw-mill over on what is now the Dixon's Mill Road. Dixon's Mill, to which I referred in a former paper, was not a grist or saw mill but a cider mill of considerably later date. It has since been destroyed and the millpond by it washed out. Littell's map calls much of the Great Swamp "Sterling's Valley", particularly that part bordering on what is now the Lord Stirling Road connecting Green Village with White Bridge.

BEER'S ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY 1868, is the next most fruitful source of orientation carrying on the study chronologically. By that map, made through materials gathered during and after the Civil War period, we have the emergence of some planned school-system (page Horace Mann). The map of the Town of Passaic gives the school-districts. School and District No. 1, New Vernon, on the four corners by the Presbyterian Church. No. 2, Green Village, on the corner of Village Road and Myersville Road. A wagon going around the corner could hit the building and a huge stone was set alongside the road to protect the place. No. 3, Logansville, on the west side of the road opposite the A. Mills place (now MacDougall). This school was later removed from its position there and placed just to the south of the Van Horn farmstead (now Beresford) where its remains may still be traced. No. 4, Pleasantville, stood on Plea-

Location Map of the Early House in New Vernon as remembered by Benji Goble in his later life (1806-1898)

The houses known to have been standing at the time of the Revolution (or shortly after) - Swiss

Map labels include: Kinney, Crane, Youngs, Church, Ellicks, Tunia, Phoe, Miller, Smith, Keener, Brannen, Turnpike, Mill Road, Village Road, New Jersey Road, Morristown.

the names are of present day occupants - 1978 - Swiss  
many homes have been considerably changed



santville Road, the lower side, near the present Connon place. No. 5, Pleasant Plains, stood near where the Pleasant Plains Road, running from the Water Works, meets the Lord Stirling Road, the northwest corner. It is now a dwelling. No. 6, Myersville and Long Hill, as one swings up the hill to the Millington Road intersection, on the s.w. corner. No. 7, Millington, in the heart of the village at a cross-roads. Nos. 5, 6, and 7 were in Passaic Township as now constituted. District No. 9 apparently used the school-house called Van Doren's on the mountain fork of the road past the Old Mill. District No. 11 used the Morris Township School No. 6, the Red Brick, so far as I have been able to determine.

The Red Brick school seems to have been built on the old Jonas Goble land about 1810 and served until about 1936. It is now a dwelling. The Green Village school, where as many as ninety pupils attended in winter sessions under a single teacher, according to a former pupil, Charles Sherod Frost, was removed in 1880 to another site and became a small mill. Another building, now a store under the management of Botti, was built in 1880 as a two-storied school. It was used up until about twenty years ago. The old Logansville School, used until 1926-27, was moved down to Pleasant Plains Road and made into a dwelling by John Paul. The Van Doren School is now part of a dwelling. The New Vernon School has given way to the Harding Township School. I have not traced the sequel to the Long Hill or Millington schools.

While on the subject of schools, one might refer to a reputedly earliest school in Passaic Township. It was known as the "Old Mulberry School House". The date given is 1795. The teacher, Jonathan Miller. The location, on the Olmstead place at the intersection of what is now Blue Mill with Red Gate Road. What school may have antedated the Green Village one-room place on

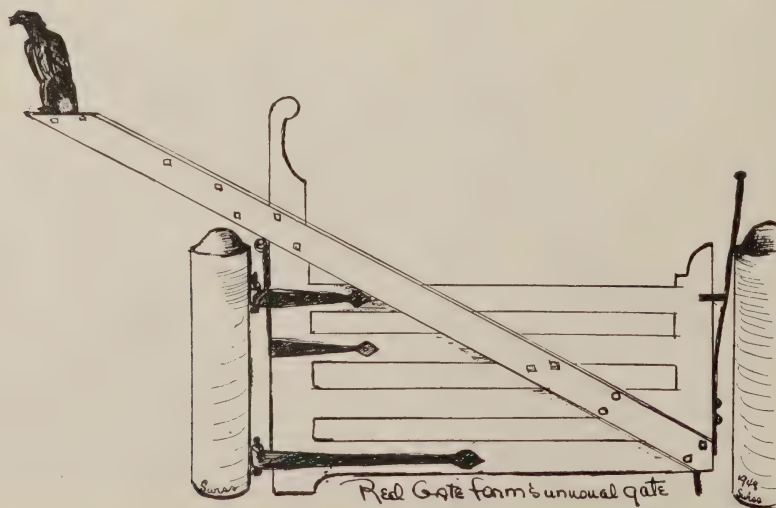
The Township line through Green Village cut across one of the dwellings to the north

of the Green. The family on one side of the "duplex" voted in Chatham, the other in the Green I do not know. The first date is presumed to be about 1800. The same date is approximate for New Vernon. Reference elsewhere has been made to the house on Village Road now occupied by George Bruns. That place may have been used in 1800 and became a dwelling about 1867. It has been suggested that the Pleasantville School started at least by 1830.

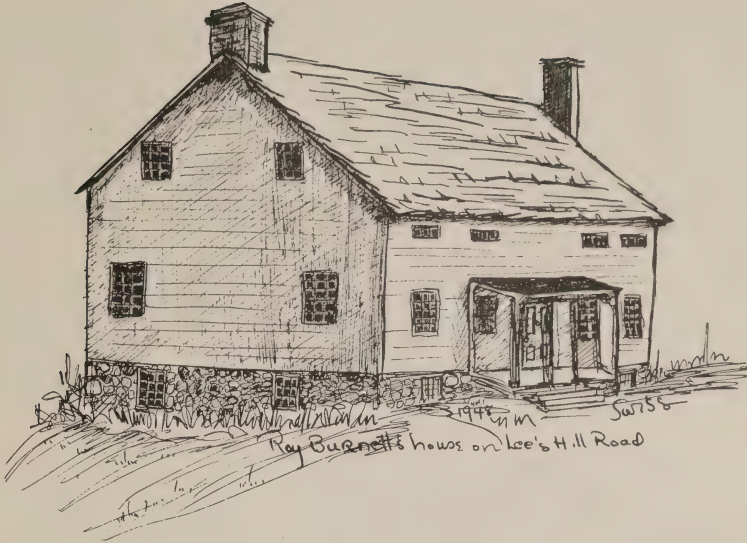
An interesting thing about the Pleasant Plains school, now a dwelling, is the presence of the large maples originally planted by the pupils on Arbor Day. Two important ones still standing, according to old-timers, are "Benjamin Harrison" and "Grover Cleveland". Byram Baird or George Kutcher will point them out.

Tradition has it that Washington and Lafayette, en route to the Robertson's homestead (Kinney's), once waved their greeting to the students as they passed by the Logansville School. It sounds interesting but perhaps apocryphal. Schools have been turned to interesting extra-curricular uses. The Logansville people organized a locally famous "Singing School" in their school-house in November, 1865, with a roster of some length showing charter members; sixteen men and six women, all of the leading and familiar Logansville family names.

ROBINSON'S ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY, 1887, is a very important piece of work. Though many of the family names sometimes show a grotesque spelling the material is fairly full and, I should judge, fairly accurate. At the time of compilation the school numbers had changed. The Brick School on Mt. Kemble avenue was now number 68. The New Vernon school on the church corner, number 69. Logansville schoolhouse was number 70. The Green Village school, still located in the map on the Green corner, probably erroneously, was number 72. The Pleasant Plains school was number 73. The Pleasantville stone school-house was no longer in use.



Red Gate farm's unusual gate



Passaic Township, as then constituted. When the Chatham-Harding line was drawn it dodged the house.

This 1887 map shows the presence of a Methodist church at the Pleasant Plains intersection near the school-house. Today, one may still see the foundation stones resting a score rods from the s. e corner. And although this tour takes one outside of Harding Township there are a few interesting points to pick up. Turn right at the school on the Lord Stirling road (as one proceeds **from** New Vernon by way of Pleasant Plains road at the Water Works). The old church foundation is on the left. Beyond, one crosses a small bridge over Black Brook. The old George Baker property lies in there. Some buildings along here once housed the New Vernon Fireworks Co., a business that went into operation periodically. To the right along this road lies the old Leonard property. To continue three-quarters of a mile from the school will bring one to the famous old White Bridge and White Bridge community on the banks of the youthful Passaic. Sometimes, in rainy weather, this road floods badly—a proverbial local phenomenon.

If one turns left at the school towards Green Village a good mile brings the visitor to old Spinach Corners. This is at the intersection of the Lord Stirling road with the Long Hill road out of New Vernon. The name, curious in itself, may derive from a fairly prominent family in the Morristown area during the Revolution, the Dr. Spinnage family. Though I find no record, it has often happened that families in the larger towns bought large tracts of timbered land in the Great Swamp in those early days. Much logging was done in winter when the ground was suitable for hauling.

At this same intersection stands an old house now occupied by the Kutcher family. A chimney stone marked "J.H.", or Jacob High, is dated 1793. It may be of historical

interest to note that on the old LITTEL map the owner's name is specified as Solomon Spoining. Perhaps this family name may be back of the present "Spinach Corners."

Other old families who owned land in this area a hundred years or more ago included the Meekers, Roberts, John Tunis and T. D. Jones.

The claim is made that the largest elm in the State of New Jersey stands in front of the George Kutcher home. One should not miss seeing the tree.

Black Brook should have been the natural division when Harding and Passaic Townships were separated; but let us again go northward and cross the appointed line into the former, and let the engineer struggle with the tax map for the Great Swamp. (A tax map of Harding is now in the making by its busy engineer, Carl B. Scherzer.) One again crosses Middle Brook and Great Brook. This 1887 map has called the Great Brook, "Loantaka Brook," with a slight suggestion of the esthetic. The cartographer didn't live in the swamp! Perhaps he picked its blueberries when no mosquitoes were around.

Laying the maps aside temporarily let us turn to Logansville. Some of the old inhabitants said that it was once derogatorily called OWL TOWN not because of the owls but more perhaps for the fact that small neighbor boys used to hoot during the sessions of the Singing School. This is all conjecture.

The center of ye ancient village has variously been given. Sometimes it is shown to be where Primrose Brook crosses at the Logansville (now Lee's Hill) road. The name derives from the old Logan family which formerly occupied the hilly section further south. On or near the original site, Alfred Mills in 1850, built the house now occupied by the MacDougall's. Others, place the center of the settlement at the John Potts-Whitenack-Sellman corner where Lee's Hill and Bailey's Mill roads met. (The names indicate successive occupancy.)



Old deeds in that neighborhood had a habit of beginning the description of land from a large rock in the pond near the road (Bernard's Water Works). One 1813 deed recently scrutinized, recording a transfer of land from John and Nancy Conway to Jeremiah Haydn (Hayton?), begins description as from Ricky's Saw Mill. The Haydn land is now part of the Mosher place—one of the attractive new homes in that neighborhood. Ricky's Mill may have stood on a Revolutionary site called Beard's. (The modern spelling is Baird?). After Ricky's came Osborn's Mill. The little community at the bridge over the Passaic, by the Water Works, was designated as Osborn Mills on some of the old maps. After Osborn's came the Water Works. The pond there is a rendezvous for fishermen and fisherwomen.

1867. The clay from his day until this comes from the neighborhood, particularly back of the Heyer place. The original methods included a turnstile for mixing the clay and water, horse-drawn. Additional sheds and buildings have been added. Phillip E. Hoffman, present owner, re-established the business in 1923, adding a large-capacity kiln. Most of the clay now goes into flower-pots of various sizes. Visitors to the Pottery will be shown the spot upstairs where it is reported by the local tradition that Dan Hahn hung himself.

Speaking of this good Logansville clay, the brick which went into the making of the present Presbyterian church in Basking Ridge (1839) was burnt on the site of the Mills Bockoven homestead. The original Abraham Bockoven (spelled variously, Bock-



Certain statements about the Logansville locale formerly made should be revised. I have been unable to trace the presence of a former "factory" on what is now the John Yonker place originally in the hands of E. P. Oliver (1793-1871). Although the school-house by Beresford's is post-Civil War, as indicated, it was the **same building** moved to that spot from opposite the MacDougall's. One of its famous last teachers was endearingly referred to as "Grandpa." For many years each Sunday a Sunday-School met in the building being supplied by ministers from either New Vernon or Basking Ridge. The mail routes in this part of Harding township are rural routes out of the latter.

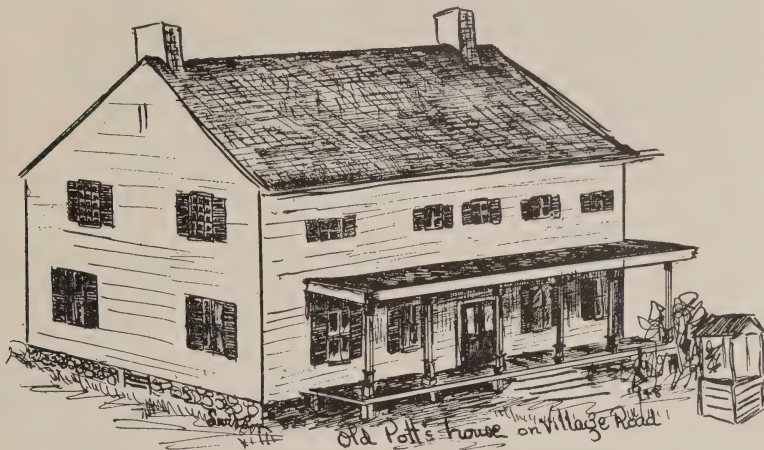
There is an interesting place called the Logansville Pottery on Bailey's Mill road near its junction with Lee's Hill road. The pottery began with an old dwelling house. Amzi W. Leonard organized his business in

over, etc.) house, stood nearer the Passaic River and was moved to its present site after 1839. The present family represent a long and honored tradition in this township: Abraham, Abraham Jr., Joseph, George, and Mills. The Baird family in the same neighborhood also has a long history of residence in these parts.

Andrew Thomas moved an E. P. Oliver house to an adjacent site and left it to his niece from which we have the transfer from the Stammer (not Stammen) sisters to the present owner, Purdy Benedict. It has been vastly enlarged.

As in all these country places there has been a tradition of little country stores from generation to generation. Logansville is no exception. Opposite the Mosher place in the James Walling house, now occupied by his widow, John Hayden (Hayton, 1792-1872, and Elizabeth Baird Hayden, kept a store. The

J. H. Osborn-Amerman-Ira Lawson place was once the store. Up on the hill, the front office in the Beresford home was a Van Horn store. The largest of them all and also the local post office was the front of the present Heyer residence opposite Beresford's. Here, for many years, centered the village activities. The Sellman's also ran a small store with candy and other supplies particularly for the school-children.



name the roads of the Township of Harding: Messrs. Bayne, Cutler, Wood, Goble, Jenks and Scherzer. New Vernon road became Sand Spring road. Mendham road (the old Hill Fort road of the Revolution) became Tempe Wick and Glen Alpin roads. New Vernon-Long Hill or Swamp road became Long Hill road. Logansville road became Lee's Hill road. Mountain road became Bailey Hollow road.

Apart from the Geological Map to which I have made brief reference in a former paper, the next map to command some attention is MUELLER'S ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY, 1910. Two things attracted interest here. First, the mislocation of the New Vernon Cemetery (it is placed south of George Murphy's on Lee's Hill road — shades of the "black Murphy's") and second, the indication of estate names.

These estate names make delightful reading. Perhaps the coming of the large estates has brought to it certain problems or created certain attitudes in the minds of the "old-timers". Yet, the names: George W. Jenkins' "Silver Lake Farm". The Emma Mann Wray estate, "Mannheim". The Charles W. McAlpin "Glen Alpin". The Tiers' "Farmlands". The N. D. Goble "Sunnybrook Farm". The William B. Blackwell "Ravenswood Farm". John L. Wenman's "Willowmeade". William B. Lindsley's (lovingly called "Buttermilk Bill") "Crystal Spring Farm". James H. Haley's "Hillcrest" where now live the Pulverman's. And a host of others!

'Tis lucky town names don't go through too rapid a metamorphosis. Take the case of a neighbor: First it was Columbia, then it was Afton, now it is Florham Park—all within a long life-time! But we live in glass houses!

One should have a brief look at the Dolph and Stewart, 1928, MAP OF MORRIS COUNTY. If for nothing else it will indicate to the modern householder how recent have been the change of roads and road names in this area particularly in the northern part of the township. Every resident should have access to the road map of May 11, 1943, done by the Township Engineer in cooperation with a special committee appointed to

There are roads which no longer exist by the 1943 reconstruction. Yet, the old roads of the past have some historic value and much sentimental value if, for example, it is believed that by that way there followed some old stagecoach route. Take, for a case in point, the Blue Mill road. Beginning at the Mill site one would bear right and follow the old road on the south shore of Silver Lake. Were one going to an old-time Green Village or New Vernon Sunday-school picnic or other outing that spit of land known as Snake's Point would be the spot. I am told that it was originally given for public enjoyment but that the closure of the right-of-way made it useless. The road went up over the hill by the old T. E. Allen (Hendricksen) house coming out by the present Walter Kremetz home near the Van Buren road junction. Happily, a new road under the hill was afforded public use when the Weed and Colgate places were each consolidated.

Opposite the Colgate barns, now transformed into a dwelling and presently occupied by the O'Hara's, a road runs off into the fields at a sharp diagonal. By that old way one would strike a mid point on the old road which used to link the Mill road (now called Dixon's Mill road) with Village road, running in back of the J. S. Frost place. In fact, there used to stand a Frost house alongside the road. This is now part of the Debevoise place to its rear. The township designated the Mill road end of this old road as Cherry lane. A residence stands almost athwart the road up on the rising ground.

Near the A. Eagles-Grace G. Conley-H. L. Colgate-Seward Smith place, to give some of the antecedents of the large house at the Featherbed lane-Village road junction, a continuation of Featherbed dips into the





woods and crosses the hill to Pleasantville road near the old stone house. The road extends down into the low ground continuing on to meet the extension of Woodland road out of Green Village. There was quite a settlement of homes down there some years ago: S. R. Lindsley, J. O. Pruden and D. Whitenack, etc al. A woods road extended from Woodland across the Swamp linked with Long Hill road over near the Deitzeman place, but this is not now in use, the local timber having been removed.

For many years a man named Sutz lived in the Woodland road area at its far end whose business amongst local poultry-raisers earned for him the title, "The Stale-Bread Man". On the present Weichert place the large barn which looks something like a church was placed there by Oscar Lindsley. Several loads of hay could stand inside the building. This happens to be the resurrected Presbyterian church from Morristown, brought over piecemeal, when the present stone church was erected, 1893.

Before the bridge over a branch of Great Brook was built, near the Debevoise (then the J. S. Frost place), it was necessary to go from New Vernon to Green Village by way of the roads in back of the Frosts via the Mill (Dixon's) road.

In the attempt to keep as much of history and as little of fancy out of this study may

OLD BURYING PLACES make an interesting study for the antiquarian and one may at least make some mention of these without undue morbidity. Recollection of the places and burials are rapidly disappearing from all record. First, of course, there are the now extinct places.

Tradition tells of a family plot on Pleasant Plains road about one hundred yards from the corner of the intersection at the pond. There are no facts available as to whether this was an old Beard (Baird?) plot or not.

On the old Whitenack place two hundred-odd yards back of the present Mosher home on Lee's Hill, stood an old Indian Burying Ground atop the slope. It was used by the local white residents of Logansville well on into the 1850's but has now entirely disappeared. An apple tree marks the site. Some

of the gravestones were removed and placed in the Presbyterian Churchyard at New Vernon: Peter Whitenack, d. 1868, and Isaiah, son of Daniel and Polly Whitenack, d. 1849. There may be others. Mrs. George Bockoven has kindly produced a list worked out by the late George Bockoven, and I consider it well to record the names for the record. So far as we know, therefore, interred in the SASSAFRAS BURYING GROUND were Bliker Whitenack, the soldier in the Continental Army, Peter and Daniel Whitenack, his brother, also Daniel's wife, Polly. They lived on Young's road next to the Thomas Young land. I have referred to Isaiah Whitenack. Also John Potts and spouse. They formerly occupied the Sellman house. Then, Haines Hand and his wife Peggy; Margaret Handville, John, Edward and Mary Miller, and Morris Thomas. Years ago Mrs. G. W. Van Horn reported the Indian burials.

George W. Beers, Jr. reported the old, now extinct, family plot back of the present George Murphy place on Lee's Hill road. It was some twenty by thirty feet square. There are no records of the burials though one might suspect early Fairchild interments with some of the stones later removed to a churchyard. But this is dubious.

Over at the bend of Long Hill road near the driveway into the Bayne place, **opposite** the old lime kiln on the inner angle of the road, stood one of the Jedediah Mills houses. A tablet was discovered there bearing the datum: Eunice Tompkins Lindsley, widow of Mahlon Lindsley, d. February 1, 1873. The finding of this mark suggests the possibility that the stone was prepared and placed in the front yard some years before the death, a habit that has not yet totally died away. We have one example in the township now. Later, the interment was made in the Presbyterian Churchyard. (There is a full-sized grave space.)

On Van Buren road, in properties formerly those of Allen and Sayre and now Bangs and Brown, stood the local Poor House. The original building was near the present site of the Bangs home. Due to difficulties of water-supply the place was moved down to the bank of the brook which helps make the headwaters of Silver Lake. One may



still see the ruins. Incidentally, old-fashioned houses with fine oaken sill-beams could be readily moved from place to place in the old days, a practice now less common. Between the present Bangs house and the road is the POOR HOUSE BURYING PLOT now almost forgotten.

Unless one were to make a full genealogical study it will be unnecessary to give the details concerning the two extant burying grounds. But a general mention must be included in this section of our report. The Methodist Episcopal Cemetery now known as the NEW VERNON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION is not as old as I seemed to indicate in a former paper. The ground was given by Abner Lindsley, 1828-1860. A stone-marker indicates the bequest as follows: A friend to the cause of religion, Liberal in principles and views, The donor of this cemetery ground, To the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Vernon.

There are a few of the old residents who were interred there including old family names: Miller, Prawl, Muchmore, Lindsley, Fairchild, Tucker, Sturgis, Tester, McAlpin, and the more recent, Connett, Lord, and Chapman. The epitaph on the stone-marker of Andrew J. Lord, 1897-1946, is striking: To know him was to love him. Another, that on the marker for Allan Heyward McAlpin, 1884-1946: To dwell in the hearts we leave behind, is not to die.

The spot is a beautiful last resting-place on Glen Alpin road.

The larger churchyard across the way at the corners is considerably older. Some of the stones, particularly the soft sandstone markers, are showing the results of erosion and weathering. But this is a habit!

Here below is an incomplete list of those of our honored old-timers who were living during the years of the American Revolution. I trust the reader will not be bored by something that ought to go down in the records, viz:

David Lindsley, 1760-1850. One of the two first elders in the New Vernon kirk.

Martha Lindsley, 1751-1848, wife of Ephraim, who lived in the house which stood originally opposite the Howard Murphy place. I have not discovered Ephraim's grave.

Thomas Darling, 1771-1853.

Jacob Tomkins, 1774-1853. The old Tomkins (Tompkins) homestead used to stand on James street where now stands the new red house occupied by the William Smith's on Frelinghuysen land (1947).

Jedediah Mills, 1779-1870, and his wife, Phebe Mills, 1781-1872.

Agar (Agur) Lindsley, 1768-1845.

Silas Lindsley, 1771-1845.

Contemporaries of the above old-timers but interred elsewhere would include the following who lived in or about Harding Township during the Revolution: Sam Broadwell, Abraham Canfield, Daniel Cory, Jonas Goble and other members of the Goble family, Elias Hedges, Gabriel Meeker, William Stiles, and the Primrose family.

Benjamin Bailey (Bayles) should not be excluded from a list of important residents. His division of holdings amongst his sons may be cited for its particular interest. To Henry, the present Wilfrid Wood land. (In a former paper I erroneously referred to the name Guerin. Also, I should rectify the mistake concerning the old Guerin home of Revolutionary date. It still stands at the edge of the park area at the junction of Jockey Hollow and Sugar Loaf roads.) To Charles, the present Wightman land on Mt. Kemble avenue. To Mills, the land around what is now the Brick Schoolhouse. To Ebenezer, the lower side of Mt. Kemble avenue at what was the Corbin place (before Slover's time). To William, the saw and grist mill later known as the Bailey Mill. In Mueller's 1910 Atlas the ponds at Bailey's Mill are shown as very extensive. This is a part of Primrose Brook which crosses under Mt. Kemble avenue near the McAlpin Corners. Those Corners, by the way, were still called Hoyt's Corners on the 1887 maps. It will be observed from the Benjamin Bailey





will that Mills Bailey inherited the lands around the Brick Schoolhouse. I said formerly that he bought them. Perhaps he actually added to his inheritance through purchase.

This brings one to the last of the old churchyards in the neighborhood, the Baptist, though not in Harding Township. The first Baptist Church was organized in the home of Jonas Goble, August 11, 1752 (not 1759). Eleven members initiated the organization and their number was immediately increased by baptisms. When, by 1771, the church on the Green in Morristown had been completed, the membership had grown to eighty-five. The first meeting-house, 1752, was erected on Mt. Kemble avenue on the upper side of the road some one or two hundred yards from the present Brick School. Bailey's Hollow or Mountain road ran through the property. The building, a simple structure, was used for twenty years. The churchyard was toward Morristown on the lower side of the hill about two hundred yards from the Sand Spring road intersection on land lately farmed by John S. Green. Jack Green still lives in a little cottage on or near the spot. I know of no record as to who was buried there. It is reported to have been used for interment up until about 1830.

While Ichabod Tompkins was the first pastor of the Baptists to be called as full-time minister, John Gano, the famous chaplain in the Continental Army, and others, supplied the pulpit from 1752 until 1758. Both Tompkins and his successor, John Walton, Jr., died of smallpox.

The Jonas Goble home has been thought to have stood on the Sand Spring road-Mt. Kemble avenue, north corner. Were one to turn left off of Sand Spring, to the left, the lower side of the avenue, would be the probable site of a Continental Army drill field. And to pursue ones way beyond the field to where the Camp road debouches from the mountain would be to stop at Larzelear's Tavern. That is, unless one shuns taverns!

The traditions that Taverns must be **One** in this township is carried on by the presently standing Looby place opposite an old Antique Barn or Barn of Antiques. This, beyond the Larzelear site some several hundred yards, towards Bernardsville.

While on Mt. Kemble avenue one other point should be clarified. It concerns the old George K. Bockoven farm from which was carved the present place occupied by the Bishops until recently. The house was built in 1875 by George K. for his daughter, Fanny, and son-in-law, a Childs. The Earle's live in the old farmstead itself, a delightful place abutting the roadside.

I make the following revisions? I thought that Green Village owed its name to a saw-mill owned and run by a family Green. This cannot be substantiated. We are still looking for the origin of the name. In New Vernon, I referred to the Field Club as about a 1909 foundation. Local folk assure me, without too much definiteness, that the collection of materials for its building began at least in 1907. That John Johnson house on Glen Alpin road occupied presently by Miss Sarah Longcor to which I made reference, is a second and **not** the first original house. The first house stood slightly deeper in the lot. The Daniel Tunis house down Millbrook road does not, as I thought, stand on the original site. It was moved up the Tunis, the first of that extensive family in these parts, was born in 1793 and died in 1847. There are many Tunis grave-markers in the kirk churchyard.

Two of the local ministers in the kirk married locally. Elias N. Crane took for his bride the daughter of Ira Pruden, and Nathaniel Conklin married the daughter of Captain Levi Drinkwater, Jennie.

May I conclude this series of papers with the remark that one will find no end of source material in the Public Library and from the maps? One cannot hope to have it and know it as the people like to have it and know it without listening to the many interesting and provocative stories that



come out of the past. For this is an intriguing part of the County of Morris; a stream of two traditions, that of the hill and that of the dale; that of the tory and that of the rebel; that of the abolitionist and that of the "copperhead"; that of the estate and that of the fisher-hunter folk;

that of the silks and satins and that of the homespun; that of the party and that of the individualist.

The past, they sleep on the hillside, all of them together — the living must follow in their train. Here, here, let's look at another map!

HAROLD D. HAYWARD, Th.D.





# Supplement

FRIENDS HAVE GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH WE ARE HAPPY TO ADD AS A 1949 SUPPLEMENT TO THE BROCHURE " HARDING A BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC TOWNSHIP "

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## D I D   Y O U   K N O W   T H A T ---

- Large areas of this township were at one time extensive apple and peach orchards.
- Several descendents of old Somerset County Dutch settlers such as the Van Dorens live in Harding.
- Descendents from the famous New Jersey Dutch pastor, Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen, from Holland in 1720 also live here.
- Several families connected with the local church and community trace back their connections four & five generations.
- One of our prominent citizens and older resident still enjoys his buggy ride along the back trails in the township wooded areas.
- The RD #2 mail carrier, Raymond Pickel, has delivered mail for over 38 years on this route. His original route was shorter in some respects: Down Mt. Kemble Avenue to the "Hard Scrapple" Road, back to Tempe Wick Road and Hoyt's Corners. Along Glen Alpin to the Church Corners area. Along Blue Mill to James Street and so back to town.
- Long before his time and before James Street was a local connecting artery of traffic, Morristown was reached from New Vernon by following over Van Beur-en Road to the Swamp Road which turned off towards Morristown between the present Brown and Douglas Weed estates, and, avoiding Tyvan Hill, so on into town. ( Colgate letter, Oct. 27, 1948 )
- The Walter Krementz house at the junction of Van B. Road and Blue Mill was once in Revolutionary days a store catering to Continental Army and local needs.



- Above this place known as the Allen-Hendrickson, presently occupied by the Colgates the owner reports the date 1778 carved upon one of the house beams.
- Artists frequently pause to sketch the rolling country to the west as seen to great advantage from the rise of Blue Mill Road before the Colgate house.
- There is a wide profusion of tulips on the lawn in April. At the N.N.Coates place formerly Chester Roes on Van Beuren the tulips adorn the sides of the long driveway. The Klipsteins on Long Hill have a similar arrangement.
- Down on Pleasantville Road the old stone or unoccupied part of the house where live the Millars bears above the door the letters I.H.R. and the date, 1781. It was built by Gideon Riggs and Irene H. Riggs, 1781.
- Forest Edge Farm of the Robert Fennimores has a very old house the most interesting part of which seems to be the succession of underground cellars and store places. Two very hard-working sisters, the Riggs, farmed this area years ago.
- Another old house stands across the way commonly known as the Peter Brittingham place. The present owners are the Eugene Sullivans.
- There has been much recent building in the Township. Large modern ranch-types not a few: Robert Krementz place on Tempe Wick. Newton Cutler's on Lindsley. The Vanderpool place off of Long Hill Road. Many smaller substantial homes have been erected in the Pleasantville neighborhood particularly over near Long Hill. Several new homes on Sand Spring Road in the other end of the township. And not a few in the Woodland Road-Myersville Road areas by Green Village. There has been a steady growth at Mt. Kemble Lake.
- There has never been sufficient recognition of the gift to the United States Government by Lloyd W. Smith of Madison of a beautiful piece of land on the top of Mt. Kemble which formed a large part of what later became the Historical Park.
- A further note on the New Vernon Land Company should be included. It was formed in 1928 by owners of large

- tracts of land. These included: Francis S. Bangs, the late Seth E. Thomas, Jr., Henry A. Colgate, Warren Kinney, Marcullus H. Dodge, Earle N. Cutler, Thos. M. Debevoise, Leon S. Freeman, J. Spencer Weed, Wm. O. Jenks and Howard Bayne. Mr. Bayne writes in a letter dated September 28, 1948, as follows, "As various properties were sold, the mortgage which was given in part payment was paid off and later most of the stock was bought in and cancelled at approximately the original subscription price. Meanwhile, the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement was being adopted. This covered properties owned by the New Vernon Land Company, the Sand Spring Land Company, the lands of their stockholders and lands of their neighbors. The restrictions did not prohibit electric lights or buses as mentioned in the pamphlet (p. 21) but prohibited electric power plants of more than 100 kilowatts capacity from being erected in the restricted area. The total restricted area covered several square miles including some lands in Morris Township. It does not cover the villages".

-On Mt. Kemble Avenue, the Wentworth property, one may more accurately locate the original Baptist Church of these parts by the spring on the place.

On the Jenks Estate in the house occupied by the De Rienzos one will find incorporated a portion of the original Larzelear's Tavern. The oven is particularly interesting.

-East of the house some four hundred yards in a small grove of trees one will find the family burying plot from the days of the old Francis Bockoven farm and before.

-Nearer Morristown, in fact, next to Wentworths the post box of the family of Duceys in residence is still marked the "Red Brick Schoolhouse".

-At the opposite end of the avenue by the old Van Doren Mill one will find the area occupied successively by three "Franklin" schools. A copy of one of the term reports for January-March, 1871, shows the names of scholars from the Harding Township side of the



24  
brook. Scholars taking spelling, reading, writing and 'rithmetic far outnumbered those taking history, geography and bookkeeping. Teachers in those days were almost entirely male.

-Though public grade schools scarcely got going universally before the Civil War and public high schools well after, a correspondent writes regarding the statement ( p.17 ) that the Logansville School probably started around the Civil War period. " This I think is a mistake ", writes Mrs. George Bockoven, " as my great grandmother Alice Robertson born 1775 was educated there as also was my grandmother Amelia Loccy (Locy, Losey) born 1804 ". (var.sp.mine-H.D.H.)

-Family Bibles come into good use for their chronological material. The same correspondent submits a list of the long Bockoven line, viz.

1. Lieut. George Bockoven, married Mary Whitenack
2. George Bockoven, married Margaret Smith
3. Abraham B. Bockoven, married Nancy DeCoster
4. Joseph D. Bockoven, married Phebe Mills
5. George A. Bockoven, married Marietta Parcells
6. George Mills Bockoven, married Edna L. Baird

-One of the oldest residents, presently domiciled in Bernardsville, Mrs. L. W. Hyer, comes from the Abraham Bockoven line.

-Attention should be drawn to Barnabas Loccy, great grandfather of Marietta Parcells Bockoven who served during the War of 1812( Letter of Mrs. George Bockoven October 26, 1948)

-Not far from where Blue Mill strikes Spring Valley Road, the turnpike running from Green Village to Morristown, site of many beautiful homes, one will discover the famous spring. There used to be a pump and trough there in the horse and buggy days. Continental Troops encamped in the valley because of this supply of sweet water it is said. Some called it the " Tea Water Pump ".

-Farther up the road one passes the Marcellus Dodge place which it is reported, before renovation, and removal back from the road, began with an old house

- built about 1790 when Silas Lindsley married. Silas was born in 1766.
- One of the finest rural estates judging by its picturesque setting in the natural beauty of brook and trees is that belonging to the Charles Dana, Jr. family on Van Beuren.
  - The estate having one of the most expansive views apart from Mt. Kemble homes belongs to the famous electronic engineer, Professor Benjamin Miessner, also off of Van Beuren Road.
  - One of our townsfolk is largely responsible for construction of the tools for making one of our recent famous bomb-sights.
  - Old residents report hearing from their forebears of a forge at Silver Lake long before the old grist mill started there. Acreage in the vicinity was owned by the Vincent Boisaubin family, refugee from the French Revolution. Their holdings were often better known under the name Beaupland from the female line. This family were instrumental in building in later years the Roman Catholic Church at Madison.
  - Where the John Applegates have taken residence on Dickson's Mill Road ( erroneously called Dixon's ) stood a house for 100 years built by Samuel Roberts for his daughter Harriet when she married William Conklin about 1835. Theodore Frost and Mrs. James Wood of Green Village are descendants from this line.
  - The Applegate house called also the Aschenbach dates from 1937.
  - Samuel Roberts came to this part of the township in 1801 but the family had been in this country since 1623 and Mrs. Fred Curry of Madison, who was a native born Green Villager ( born in the Flory House on Village Road ) has counted nine generations in her family through the maternal line.
  - Another very old and honored family is the Wards on Miller Road. They were from Newark originally. Mrs. Edward Ward comes from the line through the Eagles and Sturges families. This fact is unique in that the



- family through the years whether by the paternal or maternal line have remained in continuous possession of the old pre-Revolutionary homestead. This is a remarkable house and well-preserved. The kitchen is most interesting. I know of no other old house which possesses the atmosphere of continual occupancy so beautifully. The place stands on what is called Miller Road, connecting Pleasantville and Woodland Roads.
- Samuel Roberts, to go back, built several houses in the environs of what later came to be called Dickson's Mill. The house now standing on the road across from the mill site, variously owned in recent times, was enlarged by Roberts from a smaller house back about 1801 when he first bought into the region.
  - Early settlers to Green Village were English and built store, school, church and homes around the green. This is the probable derivation of the name of the place. Greens in the center of a village or town are now a rarity.
  - The Post Office, founded there December 23, 1862 is said to be one of the timest in the U.S.A.
  - The village Methodist Church this year (1949) is now building a parsonage for its minister and family next to the shingled church edifice.
  - Old residents inform us that riding parties, singing schools, literary and debating societies were quite the order of things last century. Recent interest in horses in this township must therefore be considered the revival of an older custom of a hundred years ago.
  - Also, a hundred years, an acre of ground was scarcely worth \$100. in the best location here. Today, the same land is worth \$1000 on the market.
  - \*The story of how the Church acquired its land in New Vernon is as follows:  
 September 7, 1835 it purchased  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres from Simeon Lindsley and his wife Mary for \$ 440. upon which stood the original manse until about 1890. A second manse was then erected on the property. The Blue family now own the place by purchase in 1948.  
 December 21, 1833, it purchased .55 of an acre from

S.L. for land for a church building. Cost \$30.00  
 June 26, 1860. .65 of an acre from S.L. for a church-  
 yard with specified plot for the Lindsley family in-  
 cluded. Price \$ 150.

In 1876 Watson Tucker sold the church an approach to  
 the old cemetery and a place for wagon sheds. These  
 faced south on the present parking area. Cost \$ 50.  
 November 18, 1886. George Beers sold 4.61 acres for  
 the new cemetery area and the Chapel. Cost \$ 600.

-This year, 1949, a third manse, the " New Manse " has  
 been constructed with community labor to a large ex-  
 tent under the direction of an efficient and tireless  
 local resident of long-standing, Fred Mullen.

-The old two-storey schoolbuilding site was acquired  
 by the church in February 17, 1927 and a revised deed  
 of 1934 through the instrumentality and generosity of  
 a fellow-citizen, Howard Bayne in conjunction with the  
 Board of Education. This is the land immediately on  
 the " four corners ".

-Featherbed Lane gets its name say old inhabitants  
 from the fact that it is about the roughest road in  
 the township and has been for the past seventy years.

-School-children used to regale themselves with apples  
 from the trees behind the present new manse.

-The author of the book upon which Walt Disney based  
 his popular picture " So Dear To My Heart ", is the  
 illustrious Sterling North of Tempe Wick Road who has  
 this past year built a sumptuous residence in the  
 forest by the edge of a pond and waterfall.

-The Harding Township School is being greatly enlarged  
 with modern addition of gymnasium, auditorium, cafe-  
 teria and other service units at a cost estimated to  
 be around \$300,000.

-The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Company in 1948 install-  
 ed a new siren to scream over Lee's Hill and a new  
 Seagrave Pumping Fire Truck to add in fire control.  
 President of the company this year, Charles Byrnes.

-The Studio Barn, so-called, back of the Schroeder  
 home must have the largest field-stone fireplace in  
 the county or state. 10' wide and 12' high in the room.



- School registration at the township school tops 200. Voting registration in the township tops 1000.
  - The Eighth Grade Class of the School have now established a regular yearly custom of taking a Washington, D.C. trip. The class raise funds for this.
  - It would cost more to build a modern two-car garage than the village church in N.V. cost originally.
  - The old pew doors are still stored in the church attic.
  - Local historical societies would appreciate your membership. Basking Ridge Historical Society, founded in September 23, 1928 and incorporated March 2, 1935 has 150 members. Morris County Historical Society, founded in December 4, 1945 and incorporated June 19 1946 has about 260 members. The latter meets at the Morristown Library on the first Tuesday.
  - A few copies of the historical brochure of which this is a supplement may be had from Charles Schroeder, New Vernon, N.J.
  - One of our neighbors feeds the deer in the dead of winter.
  - One of our neighbors cures his venison on the tree behind his house.
  - There is a famous walnut tree on Edward Eisele's Honeysuckle Hill Farm on Millbrook Road. Further up the road William Schafer is raising a fine herd of hogs.
  - The fog is still thick in parts of this township. The carpenters tell of one of their number who started laying shingles four feet out from the roof before discovering his mistake.
  - That is not the only faux pas. A Fairchild on April 9, 1865 upon hearing of Appomattox and assuming that Grant had surrendered wildly rang the church and schoolhouse bells. So we have all kinds of people to and all kinds of weather to make a world.
  - Some of our number let their chickens roost in the trees.
  - And the township seal reads " Township of Harding in the County of Morris, 1st. Sept. 1922, Incorporated N.J."
- The New Manse                      April 6, 1949                      Harold D. Hayward













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